Manor owner hunted; 4 QC officials fired

STORY IN METRO, PAGE A21

New docs top exam

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission announces that 1,502 out of 2,336 passed the Physician Licensure Examination given by the Board of Medicine this month. The top ten successful examinees are the following: 1.Thadeo Garcia Catacutan, 87.92; 2. Alde Carlo Patdu Gavino, 87.00; 3.Cherrie Mae Cortez Sison, 86.83; 4.Gerson Alcantara Criste, 86.75; 5. Ignatius Gerardo Eleazar Zarraga, 86.67; 6.Kathleen Joy Ong Lopez Khu, 86.58; 7.Hipolito Mance Custodio III, 86.00; 8. Cristina Paguia Rodriguez,. 85.92; 9. Ceryl Cindy Young Tan, 85.58; 10. Shaun Frederick Magbuhat Aure; 85.50.

See complete list at www.inq7.net.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2001 ★★★ 50 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 255 ₱15

Chinese firm suspends work on ₱2.7-B project

BY CHRISTINE GAYLICAN

ORIGINALLY scheduled for completion in 1998, a big irrigation project in Central Mindanao faces another delay following the killing of two Chinese engineers during a clash between Moro kidnappers and Army soldiers.

The corpses of the two kidnap victims were flown to Manila yesterday and turned over to the Chinese ambassador.

CHINESE/A4

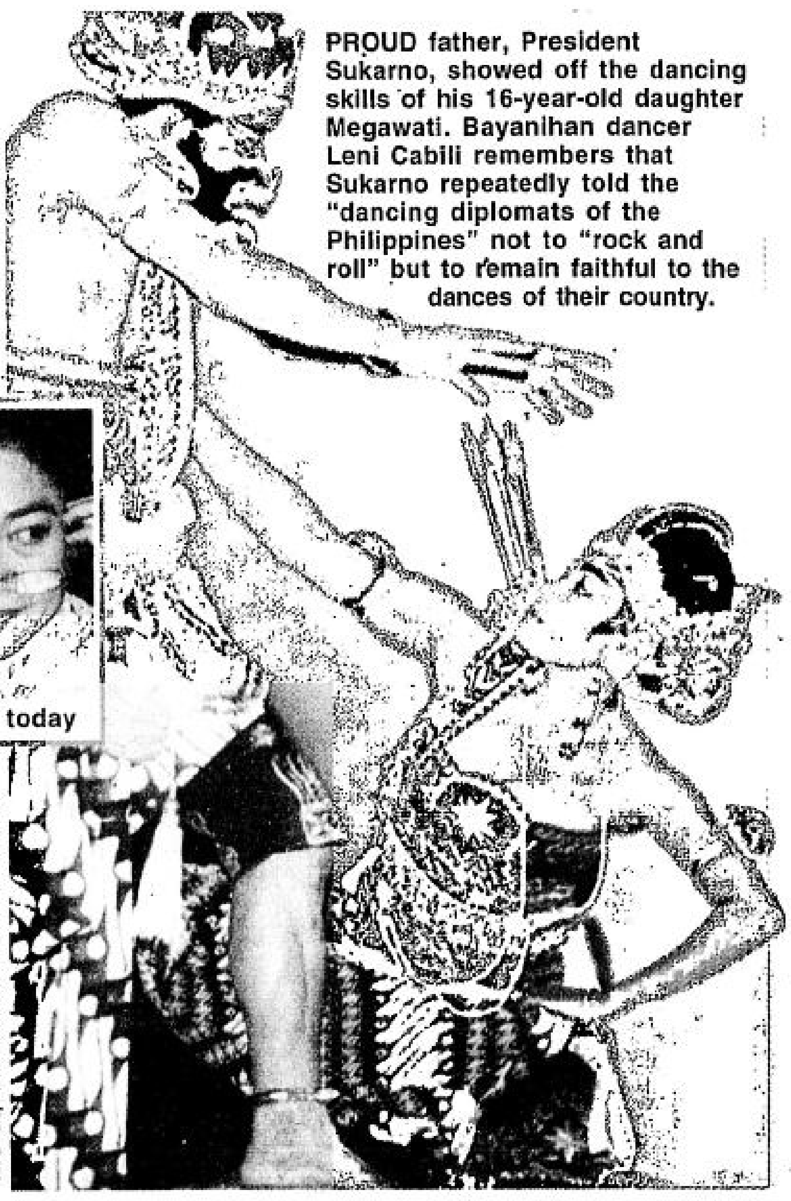
Reyes stands by Corpus

Pimentel finds defense secretary evasive during Question Hour

38 YEARS AGO, MEGAWATI WITH THE BAYANIHAN

Megawati today

Indonesian President Sukarno invited the Bayanihan dance troupe to perform at Merdeka Palace on Aug. 17, 1963, the 18th anniversary of Indonesia's independence. Megawati and her two sisters (center) performed an Indon dance. Others in photo are Eddie Lualhati, Tor Azarcon, Chito Grajo, Nina Lim, Jimmy Pabalan, Tony Gomez, Rosky Balajadia, Choy Ambida, Hilda Alicer, Teresita Prinsipe, Leni Alano, Mel Capistrano, Rose Puertollano, Carmen Valdez and Bert Liwanag.



PROUD father, President Sukarno, showed off the dancing skills of his 16-year-old daughter Megawati. Bayanihan dancer Leni Cabili remembers that Sukarno repeatedly told the "dancing diplomats of the Philippines" not to "rock and roll" but to remain faithful to the dances of their country.

PHOTOS, MATERIALS COURTESY OF LENI CABILI

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday endured a two-hour grilling by senators but stood by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and his investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson for alleged drug trafficking, money laundering and other crimes.

Reyes spent much of a rarely held Question Hour at the Senate denying knowledge or details about the intelligence operations conducted on Lacson and maintaining that Malacañang did not order the defense and military establishment to "target political personalities."

But Reyes vouched for Corpus, saying that he was "responsible enough" in discharging his duties, and that as defense secretary, he did not "micromanage" the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Reyes was questioned on the propriety of Corpus' disclosure to the media of raw intelligence reports on Lacson, particularly the senator's alleged bank accounts abroad.

The Question Hour that started at 5 p.m. was suspended at past 7 last night and was set again for Aug. 30. Of the senators, only Joker Arroyo was absent. He is reportedly in Nepal.

REYES/A17

Not just speeches, wreaths for Ninoy

BY RUSSELL ARADOR AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk
AND TJ BURGONIO

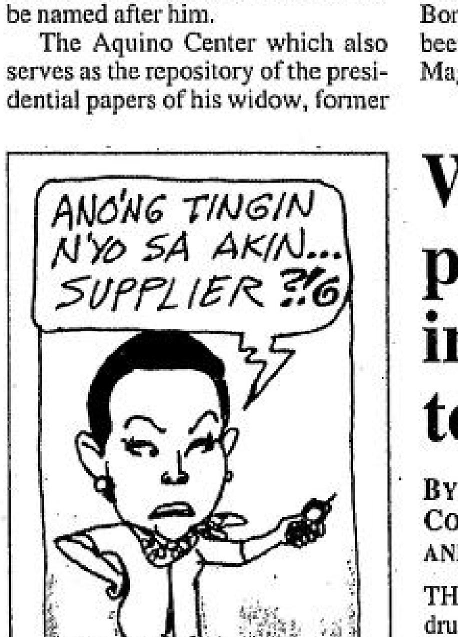
BEYOND the usual speeches and the rites of wreath-laying, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was much-remembered yesterday on his 18th death anniversary with a living memorial and plans for a shrine to be named after him.

The Aquino Center which also serves as the repository of the presidential papers of his widow, former President Corazon Aquino, was inaugurated at the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

In Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, plans are underway to convert the Military Security Detachment (MSD) compound where Aquino was held in solitary confinement for 30 days into a shrine.

Aquino, together with Sen. Jose W. Diokno, was spirited out of Fort Bonifacio in Makati where they had been confined, and flown to Fort Magsaysay to isolate them from

NOT/A4


ANO'NG TINGIN N'YO SA AKIN... SUPPLIER ?!6

Loren finds self butt of texting jokes

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

E-MAIL and text messages asking for cell phone deliveries are swamping Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

And Legarda is taking the

LOREN/A4

Wong, Lim, pals, foes invited to Senate

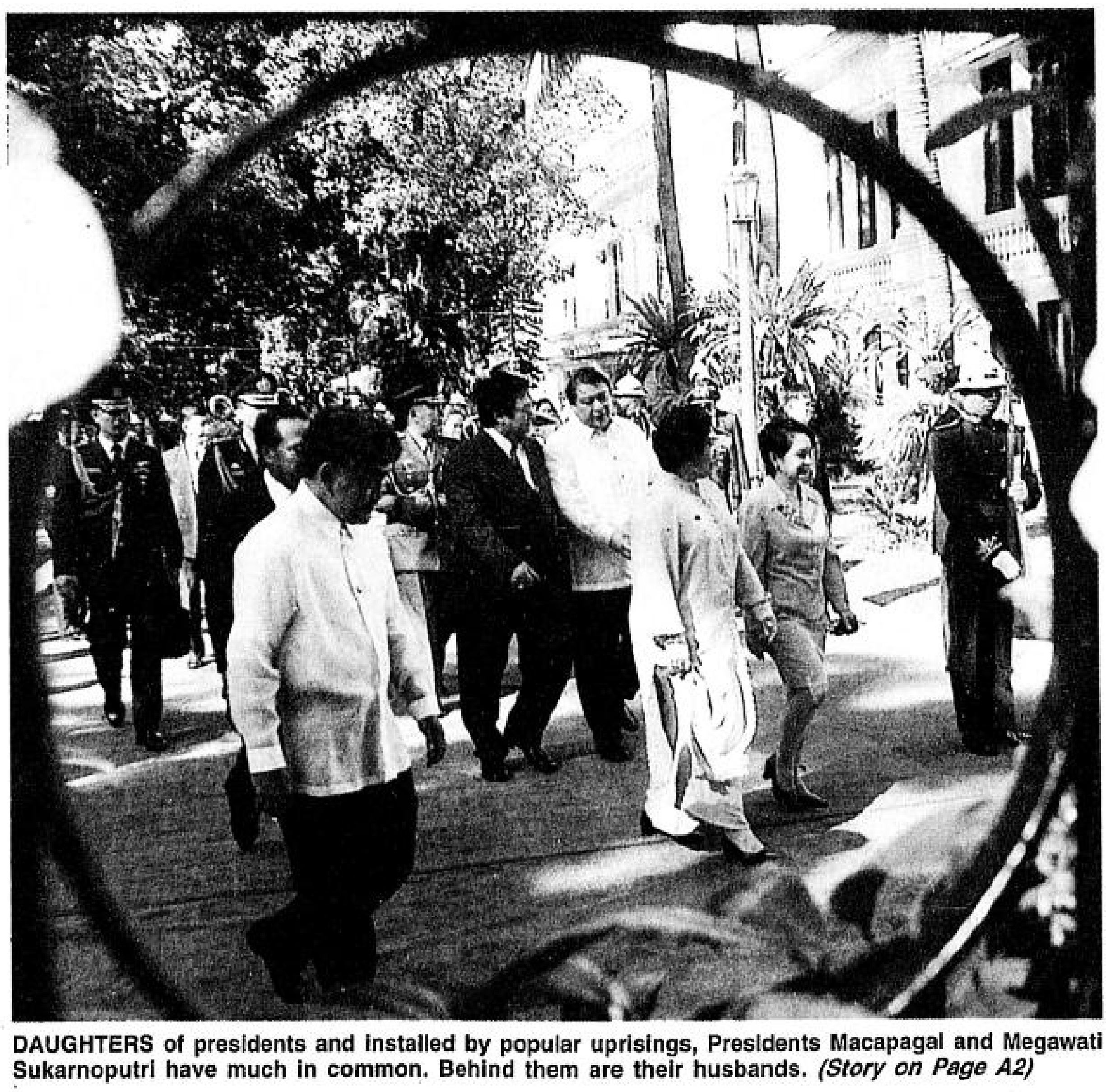
BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, CONNIE FERNANDEZ AND CHRISTINE HERRERA

THE SENATE is inviting suspected drug lord Kim Wong, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, former Tourism Secretary Antonio Gonzalez and Chief Supt. Avelino Razon to a Thursday hearing in its ongoing inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged drug links.

Razon, Philippine National Police chief for Central Visayas, yesterday defended Wong's reputation, and also clarified a television news report that the police general had received a golf club share from the Chinese-Filipino businessman.

In 1997, Razon said, he swapped his one share of stock in the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Cavite with Wong's one share in the Mimosa Leisure Estate, which used to be run by Mondragon International Phils. Inc.

WONG/A17



EDWIN BACASMAS

DAUGHTERS of presidents and installed by popular uprisings, Presidents Macapagal and Megawati Sukarnoputri have much in common. Behind them are their husbands. *(Story on Page A2)*

Priest says sorry for Ador 'escape'

BY CARLITO PABLO AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

ALLEGED ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay was to have his confession heard by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin when he left the Senate premises Monday before his official release from detention, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus said yesterday.

Corpus said Mawanay's visit to Sin's residence, Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City, had been arranged by Jesuit priest Carmelo Caluag II. But Corpus said the arrangement appeared to have been improperly coordinated with the office of Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The military intelligence chief offered this explanation to clarify the circumstances behind Mawanay's early departure from the Senate, which some senators had described as an outright challenge to the Senate's authority.

In a two-page letter, Caluag apologized to Drilon for the "confusion" caused by the incident and denied that it was part of an attempt by the Corpus-led Intelligence Ser-

PRIEST/A17

PAOCTF spied on Erap foes–PNP

₱30-M wiretapping gear seized; suppliers tag Lacson

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

THE CONTENTS of a seized computer hard disk show that the former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force eavesdropped on prominent personalities during the impeachment proceedings against ex-President Joseph Estrada, despite official denials, according to police officials.

An arrested supplier also claimed to have witnessed PAOCTF members using surveillance equipment to monitor former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Police yesterday presented to the press three former PAOCTF members and two civilians whom they arrested in an entrapment operation Monday, when they also recovered monitoring and wiretapping devices reportedly sold to the agency for P30 million.

The equipment includes the computer disk, with information showing that Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his men systematically monitored cellular phone calls of senator-judges, House prosecutors and opposition figures during Estrada's trial, according to officials.

Arrested were former officers SPO2 Leo Cariaso, SPO2 George Gabiano and retired Supt. Isaias Braga. The police also nabbed Dean Edgar Ablan and Gertrudes de Leon, president and vice president, respectively, of Armstrack Corp. The firm is an authorized dealer of Rhodes and Schwartz of Germany, a leading manufacturer of wireless equipment, including monitoring devices.

Ablan admitted the devices were procured by Lacson, then head of the Philippine National Police, and his men in April last year. He said

PAOCTF/A17

Second FRONT PAGE

HINDI
DAW
DAPAT!

Gloria, Mega vow to help each other

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

LIKE true sisters, President Macapagal-Arroyo and visiting Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri pledged yesterday to support each other in meeting the challenges in their respective countries.

Ms Macapagal and Megawati, daughters of former presidents who were close friends, met for the first time yesterday during the latter's two-day state visit to the Philippines.

During the meeting, the two agreed to improve trade and security relations, including a move to stop the trafficking of weapons between their countries.

The two leaders, however, did not explicitly discuss the separatist problems besetting their respective countries, according to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. Nor did they discuss their predecessors who are both facing corruption charges.

Guingona said that during the meeting, Megawati surprised Philippine officials when she said Indonesians missed Filipino movies and suggested that the Philippines "export" more of its films to her country.

Ms Macapagal said the Philippines feels honored that Megawati, whom she dubbed a "champion of democracy," chose the country to be the first stop in her official overseas trip.

Her journey will also take her to eight other countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Megawati was accorded full military honors at the Kalayaan Grounds in Malacañang when she arrived at about 3:30 p.m.

Ms Macapagal, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and their only daughter, Luli, waited for her in the foyer of the Kalayaan Hall.

Ms Macapagal, dressed in an olive green suit, shook hands with Megawati, who was wearing a mint green Indonesian dress.

The Indonesian President was accompanied by First Gentleman Taufiq Kiemas and their only daughter, Puan Maharani, 28.

The two women leaders, both 54 years old, both have three children—two sons and one daughter. Both also have prominent moles on their faces.

The two Presidents read their respective statements after their meeting but did not take questions from the press.

Ms Macapagal thanked Megawati for Indonesia's role in the peace negotiations between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and her assurance of her country's continued help for peace and development in Mindanao.

"Our global neighborhood increases in kinship from day to day," Ms Macapagal said.

"President Megawati and I agreed that since our fathers, Presidents Sukarno and Macapagal, were like brothers, we should also be like sisters, supporting each other as we seek solutions to problems that we inherited in our respective nations."

Ani hits dropping of tax scam case

BY DONNA S. CUETO

SAYING his office did no wrong, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday questioned the dismissal by the Sandiganbayan of 62 graft cases filed against a former finance undersecretary and Petron Corp. officials, among others, in connection with the so-called P690-million tax credit certificate (TCC) scam.

Desierto said the Sandiganbayan's fourth division should not have dismissed the cases since the respondents had not moved to have them dismissed.

"Why did the court dismiss them? It did not have to," Desierto said yesterday.

He said his office will file a motion for reconsideration to reverse the court's order.

He said prosecutors have enough evidence to pin the respondents in the graft cases, including former Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena and Petron Corp. president Monico Jacob.

The Ombudsman said that when his office filed the cases with the Sandiganbayan, it was with the finding that there already was "probable cause" to charge the respondents in court.

Desierto said the court wanted to highlight the prosecutors' "inefficiency."

"But should the court dismiss the case because of the inefficiency of the prosecutors when the evidence was before them?" he asked.

Desierto said the Sandiganbayan should have arraigned the accused and gone to trial.

The court could have also cited the prosecutors for contempt for not acting on its order dated April 28, 2000 for a reinvestigation of the graft cases.

"The court could have cited the prosecutors for contempt, for failing to act (on the court order), but not dismiss the case," Desierto said.

He said they were shocked when the court dismissed the 62 graft cases on Monday.

"*Nakakagulat talaga yun* (It's really shocking)," he said, explaining that the accused had not filed a motion to dismiss the cases on that day.

Desierto said the accused also never cited the "speedy trial act," and it was only the court that "invoked it."

He said it was the Sandiganbayan that had delayed the cases.

In dismissing the cases, Sandiganbayan fourth division chair Narciso Nario said the anti-graft court had waited for the prosecution to submit the results of the Ombudsman's reinvestigation for one year and four months.

Up to now, the court said, the Ombudsman cannot say if there is sufficient cause to indict the respondents.

Nario said the court issued a resolution on April 28, 2000 ordering the Ombudsman to reinvestigate the tax credit cases against 28 respondents, including Belicena and Jacob.

The court said it could not wait any longer, saying further delays would violate the right of the accused to a speedy disposition of their cases.

Nario said the court decided to dismiss the cases to "jolt" the Ombudsman's office from its stupor.

But the court has given the Ombudsman until this week to submit its recommendations based on its reinvestigation of the cases.

The graft cases stemmed from the alleged abuse of tax credits and duty drawbacks by certain export companies and their recipients like Petron.

Tax credits are refund payments made by the government on duties paid by certain exporters, most of them garment firms.

Under the country's laws, these companies are allowed to obtain tax credits for duties paid on imported materials used in the manufacture of products for export.

The export companies are allowed to sell their TCCs to other companies.

The Ombudsman had charged that the respondents had sold the TCCs illegally from 1993 to 1997 to oil companies like Petron which were not allowed to avail of the tax credits.

The respondents claimed the transfer of the TCCs was legal and had been done before.

Leftist solons fire 1st salvo

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

PARTY-LIST group Bayan Muna yesterday fired its "first salvo" in the House of Representatives, filing bills seeking wage hikes for government and private workers and a moratorium on the payment of some P204 billion in foreign debts in 2002.

"(The wage) increases are not too big. They are also non-negotiable because they have undergone bargaining and threshing out," said Rep. Crispin Beltran, principal author of House bills No. 2605 and 2606 which seek a P125 daily pay raise for private sector workers and a P3,000 monthly wage hike for government employees, respectively.

"We will try to convince our colleagues and possibly forge alliances with them so we could have the bills passed into law," said Beltran, former chair of the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Bayan Muna's other representatives, Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, co-authored the two measures.

For his part, Ocampo floated the idea of creating a congressional "oversight" panel to monitor the criminal prosecution of deposed President Joseph Estrada, lest the latter's cases drag on like the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases.

Ocampo, whose leftist group played a significant role in Estrada's impeachment and ouster, said the House panel would be on the lookout for "any unusual delays" in the trial and for any attempts at "negotiation" between the government and Estrada.

Ocampo admitted, however, that unless the proposal was carefully crafted, it could easily be shot down on the grounds that it constitutes congressional intervention in judicial matters.

The proposal would take the form of a House resolution to be tentatively filed this week, he said.

5 senators head for Basilan

FIVE senators led by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. travel to Lamitan, Basilan, tomorrow for the Senate's first hearing of the allegations of Lamitan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda that some military officials were conniving with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said Senators Renato Cayetano, John Osmeña, Gregorio Honasan and Noli de Castro are coming with him to conduct the hearing at the St. Peter Apostle Church in Lamitan.

He told reporters that tomorrow's hearing will focus only on the testimonies of Nacorda and other civilian witnesses.

Nacorda accused five military officials of allowing the escape of Abu Sayyaf bandits from a military-cordoned hospital compound in Lamitan on June 2.

In Isabela, the Army said three Scout Rangers were wounded while an unidentified Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed in an encounter in Barangay Bulanza, Lantawan town.

Capt. Montano Almodavar, chief of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, identified the wounded soldiers as Pfc. Michael Perocho, Sgt. Rodel Bonifacio and Pvt. Castro Kitong.

Almodavar said the bandits, reportedly led by Omair Sali, also suffered casualties. He said although they retrieved the body of the slain bandit, "we saw around five more Abu Sayyaf rebels limping in their escape."*Julie Alipala-Inot, Jonathan F. Ma and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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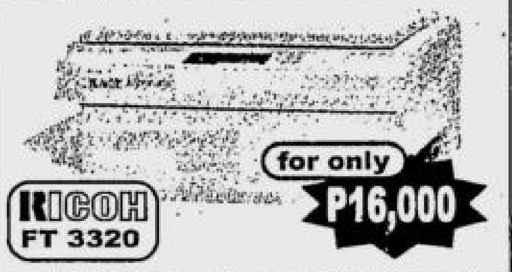

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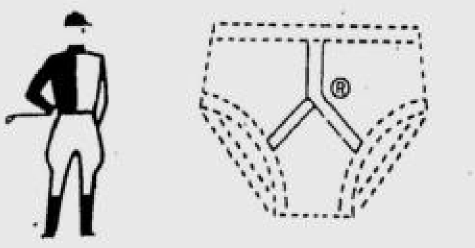

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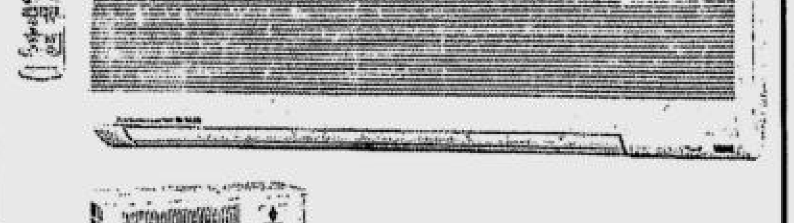

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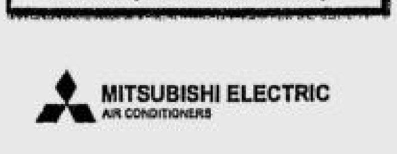

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‘Modified’ baby food sold here, group says

By C. Balana

A NUMBER of baby food products being sold in the country, including those manufactured by a leading multinational company, have been found to contain “transgenic” DNA or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

This was revealed by Greenpeace, the environmental activist group which in December 2000 had commissioned the internationally certified Hong Kong laboratory, DNA Chips, to analyze the baby food products. The test results were released by DNA Chips last March but made public by Greenpeace only yesterday.

In a press conference, Greenpeace said the test results showed massive levels of between 34 to 66 percent of genetically engineered soya in the soya ingredient in three Novartis/Gerber baby food products being sold in the Philippines. These products are Gerber's Mixed Fruits, Cream of Brown Rice and Green Mongo.

More ‘japayukis’ leaving

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE NUMBER of *japayukis*, or overseas Filipino workers in Japan, rose by 21 percent in the first half of the year, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

This was the largest increase in overseas deployment to one country recorded among the top 10 OFW destinations, the DOLE said in a report.

The report said the 21-percent hike raised the number of documented OFWs in Japan to 33,351 as of June this year, from 27,504 last year, for an increase of 5,847 workers.

“Japayuki,” a Japanese word that means someone who goes to work in Japan, has unfortunately evolved to mean ``prostitute" to most Filipinos due to the large number of OFWs, mostly women, working in Japan's adult entertainment industry.

Rosalinda Baldoz, administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, said the increase in OFWs in Japan came amid calls by some sectors of Japanese society for an “open door policy" on foreign workers who are helping fill the gaps in the work force brought about by Japan's aging population.

Baldoz said a professor at Keio University, Haruo Shimada, has even proposed granting Japanese citizenship to foreign workers who make positive contributions to Japanese society.

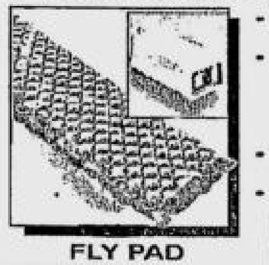
A Japanese television program, NHK's "Tokyo Opinion," has focused on the challenges facing migrant workers, stressing that there is a need for a system to protect them.

Mitsuko Horiuchi, director of the International Labor Organization's Tokyo office, said there is a need to observe the rights of migrants, including undocumented workers.

Not mentioned in the DOLE report were the undocumented OFWs in Japan, whose numbers peaked to 39,235 in July 1999, consisting mainly of construction workers and entertainers. Around 25,000 of these are women.

Japan's new immigration law, which took effect Feb. 18 last year, imposes a fine of 300,000 yen (about P112,000), three years imprisonment and manual labor for convicted illegal aliens, aside from a five-year ban from returning to the country.

Philippine labor officials had encouraged undocumented OFWs to return home before the law took effect so they could still go back to Japan within a year.



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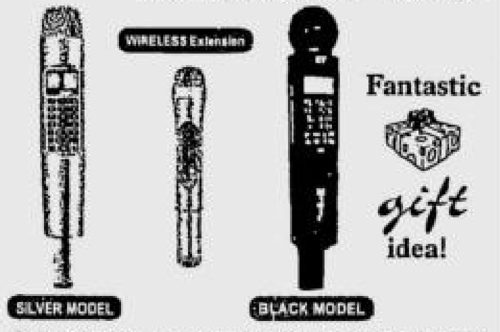

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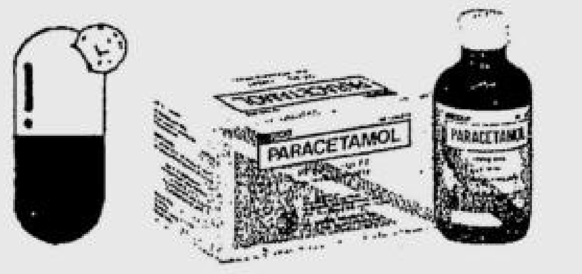

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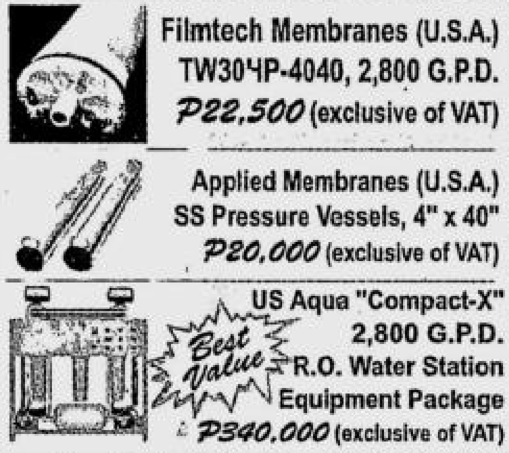

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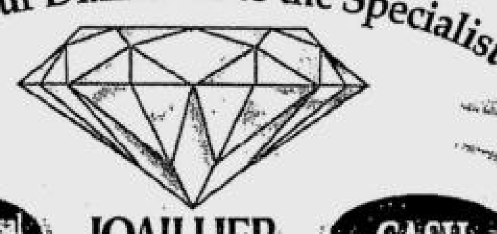

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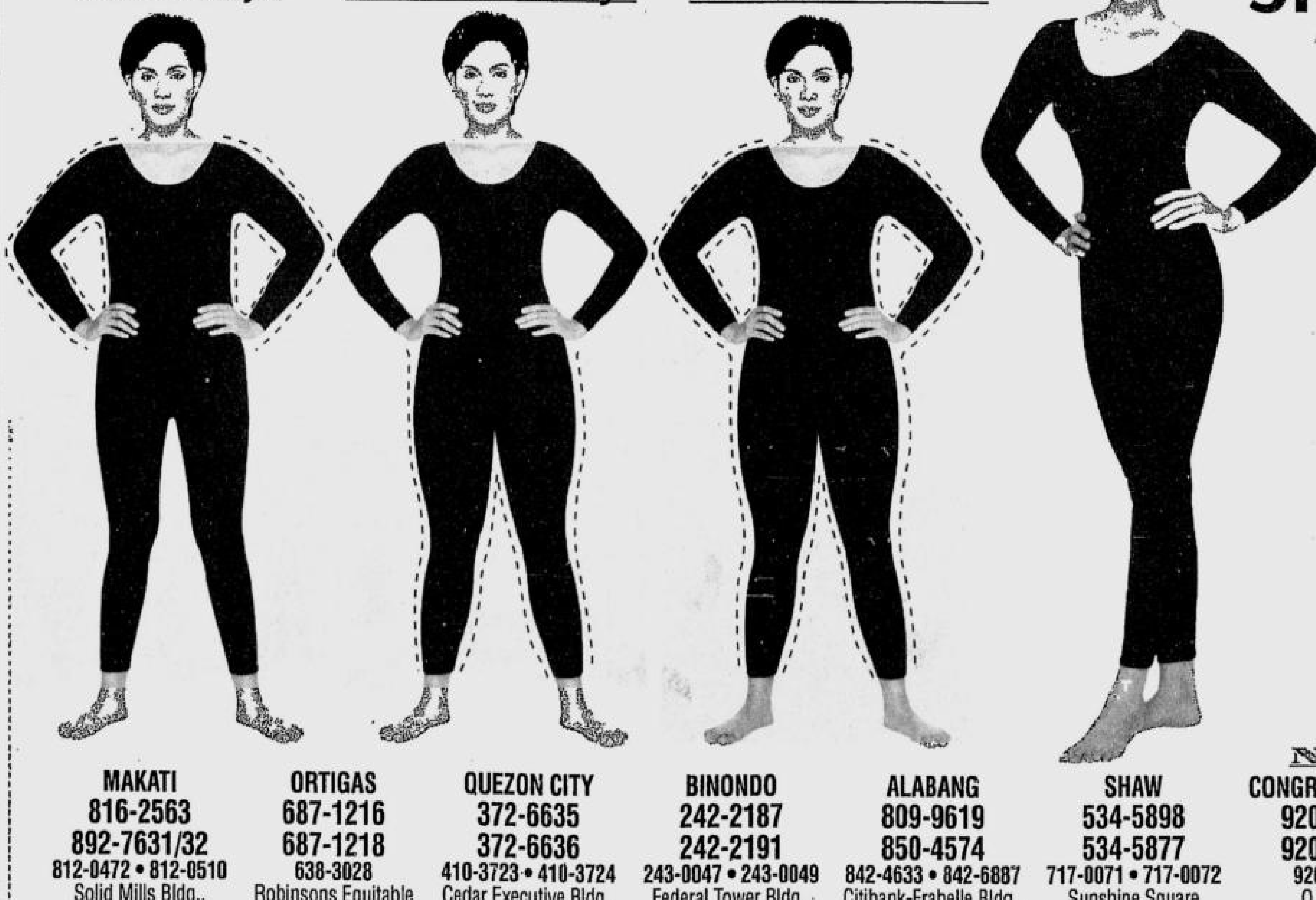

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Not just speeches, wreaths for Ninoy

(From page A1)

their supporters in Metro Manila, according to Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

Aquino's confinement at the MSD was a turning point in his seven years and seven months of imprisonment during the martial rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

Where he was once treated like a criminal at the MSD, it honored him by documenting his and Diokno's ordeal in Fort Mag, the Army division's official publication.

The two prisoners were separated into adjacent cells and barred from talking with or seeing each other. They were not provided clothes other than a pair of white T-shirts, trousers and undershirt.

Fort Mag said the "lights were never switched off and they were not allowed to wear wristwatches to deny them any idea of time. All windows were closed and there was little ventilation. The only occasion when they were allowed to get out of their rooms is in going to the comfort room."

Aquino's wife, Cory, who visited Fort Magsaysay three times, was the only link of the two prominent prisoners to the anti-Marcos movement.

Make democracy work

Ms Aquino, who led the inaugural rites of the Aquino Center, said Filipinos were "still in the process of strengthening democracy and we have to work very hard."

The center, she said, would "inspire Filipinos to make democracy work."

"Young men and women who do not know Ninoy will benefit from the center. They will learn about the sacrifices of Ninoy during martial law until his death and of the Filipinos during the first People Power."

The Aquino Center's main attraction is the museum that contains not only photographs and documents but also Aquino's bloodstained white shirt, black leather boots, typewriter and wristwatches.

Aquino was wearing a white jumpsuit when he was gunned down at the tarmac of the old Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983. The airport was renamed Ninoy Aquino International Airport to honor his heroism.

At the very spot where he fell, his youngest sister, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, and brother, Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, led the Mass said for Aquino.

"When he died, we were polarized and then joined forces. He was the uniting factor. Now we're back to polarization," Oreta said referring to the animosities between the forces that swept President Macapagal-Arroyo to power and those that remain loyal to ousted President Estrada.

Perceived as an Estrada ally, Oreta said that her late brother would have been "proud of me because I stuck to what I believed in. I really believe in what I was doing," Oreta said in her remarks.

"What if he were alive today? I think he would die a broken-hearted man. Because the country that he loved so much is very polarized. There is so much bickering," Oreta said.

Bloodstains

Ms Aquino said that the family, during her husband's wake in 1983, refused to have the bloodstains on his face and his shirt removed to remind the world of the brutality of the martial law regime.

Located about 500 meters from the LIP's main entrance in Barangay San Miguel here, the Aquino Center, a U-shaped structure with a manicured lawn at the center, houses the memorabilia, rare photographs, copies of speeches, other documents and personal belongings of Aquino.

4 chambers

The museum is divided into four chambers.

The first chamber contains Aquino's photos and memorabilia from 1950 to 1971 or before the declaration of martial law by Marcos. The second houses materials about Aquino's arrest, exile and assassination (1972-1983).

In this chamber may be found the Aquino memoirs about his incarceration at MSD where he wrote, "he was able to talk to God, that gave me the strength and spirit to fight for the Filipino people, to forget my political career and personal ambitions but to pursue a mission—to unify the people and attain their quest for struggle, progress and democracy."

Adolf Azcuna, Ms Aquino's executive secretary and legal counsel during her presidency, said the museum "kindles the fire, the dream of Ninoy," he said.

The third and fourth chambers cover Ms Aquino's rise to power until the end of her term in 1992.

The museum is located on the right wing of the center. Also on the right wing are function rooms for seminars and training, an audio-visual room, a landmark tower and a chapel.

On the left wing are the Ninoy Aquino Library, more function rooms and the ballroom.

Rapa Lopa, the Aquino Center's executive director, said the library was still empty but "will contain Ninoy and Cory's book collections as well as other materials about People Power."

The library would also have Internet access, he said.

The center also houses the Institute for People Power and Development "to continue whatever is not yet finished by institutionalizing People Power," Lopa said.

The center was built through a fund-raising campaign led by Ms Aquino when she stepped down in 1992, Lopa explained.

"As (Ms Aquino) goes out and talks about what she's doing, (she usually gets honoraria, which she donates to the Ninoy Aquino Foundation)," he said.

He said Ms Aquino also donated the prize money that she won in the Ramon Magsaysay Award to the construction of the center.

Lopa said donations also came from individuals and groups abroad like the Hans Seidel Foundation of Germany.

Aside from Azcuna, those who graced the Aquino Center opening were former Public Works Secretary Jose de Jesus, former Government Service Insurance System president Cesar Sarino, former National Economic and Development Authority director general Cayetano Paderanga, former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. and Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Nobility of race

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza, Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino and former Sen. Neptali Gonzales Jr. led ceremonies marking the Aquino anniversary.

City politicians and guests offered wreaths and made speeches at his statue on the corner of P. Burgos Street and A. Bonifacio Drive in Intramuros early yesterday morning.

The mayor said that even if Aquino led the struggle for the restoration of freedom and democracy in the country, "he also had a vision of a prosperous and peaceful Philippines where every Filipino would have the opportunity to live a decent life."

Gonzales recounted the anguish that most Filipinos felt in 1983 when they learned of Aquino's murder, recalling that what was supposed to be a joyful homecoming march was transformed into a funeral procession.

"He is one of the greatest men in our generation and the image of the nobility of our race," he said. "He never surrendered his principles as he led the opposition in fighting for freedom, steadfast in his convictions even in the face of certain death." *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Chinese firm . . .

(From page A1)

A Chinese engineering and construction firm has indefinitely suspended work on the P2.7-billion project despite government efforts to determine how the company's two kidnapped employees were killed.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday asked the defense department to conduct an inquiry after one of the bandit leaders claimed that Xue Xin and Zhang Zhongqiang were killed in the crossfire.

In a radio interview, Abu Hamsa disputed the military's contention that his gang shot the two Chinese who tried to escape at the height of the gun battle in Sultan Kudarat on Sunday.

Wang Shegli, one of the four Chinese hostages, was rescued. But the Moro bandits managed to elude pursuing troops with two hostages.

"They (the kidnappers) are so cruel," Wang told co-workers at China Electric Power Technology Import and Export Corp. during a tearful reunion on Tuesday.

Hamsa said his group was willing to negotiate for the freedom of Chinese engineer Zhang Zhongyi and Chinese-Filipino trader Edwin Lim if the military ceased pursuit operations.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, chief of the military's Southern Command, said government troops would continue to hunt down the kidnappers.

According to Camiling, as many as 20 kidnappers have been killed since Sunday's clash.

"We will get them in due time. We have the go-signal to penetrate even areas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front," Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Cotabato City, added.

Work on project

Jesus Emmanuel Paras, head of the National Irrigation Administration, yesterday said the NIA was trying to persuade China Electric Power Technology Import and Export Corp. to immediately resume work on the project.

"Should the company refuse to go back to the project site, the NIA would have to take on the project and subcontract the remaining works," Paras told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had given the NIA and the agriculture department until September to complete 85 percent of the project.

Should the NIA fail to meet the deadline, the Army's engineering brigade would take over the project, Paras said.

Additional NIA personnel have been mobilized to work on the project and more troops have been sent to secure the project site.

"This should allow us to work faster and complete 85 percent of the project that would irrigate 3,000 hectares of farmlands by September," Paras said.

Moro rebels and bandits have delayed the project that was originally scheduled for completion in May 1998. Japan, which is financing the project, has agreed to extend the project loan until May 2003.

The project is expected to irrigate a total of 10,840 hectares of farmlands in the towns of Pikit and Carmen in North Cotabato as well as the towns of Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao.

Inquiry

The Chinese Embassy has expressed deep concern and demanded an explanation over the killing of its two nationals.

Guingona said he had informed Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui about the initial military report that indicated the Moro bandits gunned down the two hostages.

Even so, Guingona said he had asked Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to conduct a deeper probe.

"I've asked (Defense) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes to conduct a thorough, objective investigation . . . Did they run away (from their captors during the firefight)? Where did the bullets that killed them come from?"

Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, also clarified on Tuesday that the DFA did not apologize to China over what happened.

"We expressed commiseration for the loss of life. I don't recall Chinese authorities asking for an apology, only for an explanation, like a narrative of what happened," Lecaros told reporters.

Hamsa

Hamsa said his group was prepared to negotiate for the freedom of the two remaining hostages.

"We will negotiate with the families of our hostages if the military will cease operations," he told dxMS radio station through a cell phone.

Hamsa said his group would release video footage of the remaining two hostages to prove they were with them and in good shape.

But Hamsa stressed his group was standing by its $10-million ransom demand despite the deaths of two hostages.

Zhang Zhongqiang was abducted in June while the four other hostages were seized while delivering ransom to the gunmen on Aug. 12.

According to Guingona, he told the Chinese ambassador that the rescue effort had been complicated by the unauthorized negotiations even though both governments had sworn to reject the ransom demands.

Guingona said the ambassador had told him that the embassy was unaware of the plan to pay ransom.

According to the ambassador, the kidnappers allowed Zhang Zhongqiang to use a mobile telephone to contact his family and launch the ransom talks. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; Edwin O. Fernandez, Allan A. Nawal and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP; and AP*

Loren finds self . . .

(From page A1)

messages seriously.

She believes the deluge of e-mail and text messages is an indication that a "moneyed, organized, syndicate group (sic)" is backing Angelo "Ador" Mawanay.

"The text brigade, e-mail brigade, letter brigade, phone call brigade, the media mileage . . . etc., these are orchestrated moves (that could be) done only by a syndicated group, a moneyed syndicate," Legarda told reporters.

The group, she said, was "out to destabilize persons or even institutions."

Mawanay, who claimed to be an ex-civilian agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, said during a Senate hearing on Friday that he sold Legarda 1,000 pieces of Nokia 3210 cell phones worth P8.9 million in December 1998.

Mawanay said the smuggled cell phones were supplied by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, then the head of PAOCTF.

Legarda denied the allegation and challenged Mawanay to produce documents to prove it. When Mawanay said he could not because the order faxed to him was destroyed in a flood in his house, the Senate ordered his detention.

On Monday, the Senate backtracked and ordered Mawanay's release to the custody of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

The cell phone issue was raised during the Senate hearing by Legarda herself who said she was informed by Corpus that Mawanay had previously told him that she bought cell phones from Mawanay. But Corpus had also told Legarda that he did not believe it was true.

Mawanay had previously prepared an affidavit detailing the alleged links of Sen. Panfilo Lacson to drug trafficking, kidnapping and money laundering. He did not include Legarda's cell phone order because, he said, he could not remember all the details about it and could not present proof of it.

Before the start of the Senate session yesterday, Legarda acknowledged that she was aware of text messages circulating, saying that people could order cell phones from her.

An INQUIRER editor received such a prank text message yesterday. The message read: "For sale: 3310-P4,300; 8210-P7,900; 8250-P11,200; 8850-P13,200; 8890-P18,200; 9210-P26,200; 3210-P3,200. Sender: Loren Legarda +639190003210."

All are Nokia cell phone models. The series of numbers preceded by the "+" sign, which is supposed to be the telephone number of the sender, is a pun on the Nokia 3210 units Legarda allegedly ordered from Mawanay.

When Legarda was asked by the reporter what she thought of this text message, Legarda told the reporter to text back this message: "You made a mistake. It's not Sen. Legarda. The allegations are false."

She said her "clearest, strongest defense (was) a clear conscience" against the "fairy tale from Pinocchio," referring to Mawanay's story.

Legarda said it was possible that Mawanay's claim against her was part of a demolition job that was related to the 2004 national elections. While there were speculations that Legarda would likely run for president in 2004, the senator yesterday said she had no plans to do so.

She said she was guided by the saying, "Sticks and stones may hurt (sic) my bones but words will never hurt me."

Legarda said she would file perjury charges against Mawanay this week before a Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

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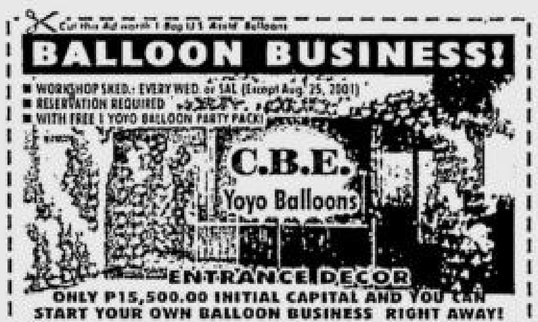

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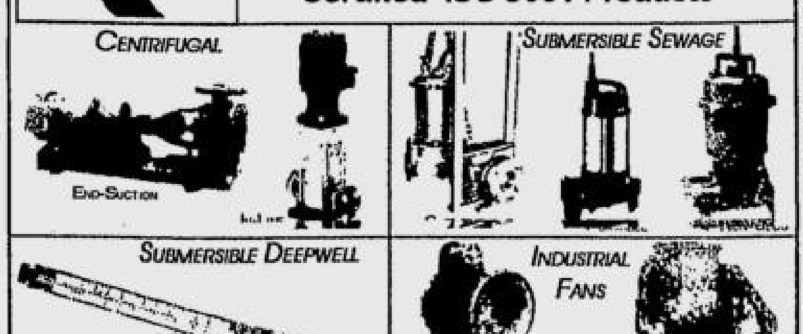

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No place like home, says Jinggoy's doc

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THERE'S no place like home for a patient suffering from a heart ailment due to stress.

With this, a cardiologist yesterday recommended that his patient, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, be allowed to go home, even if temporarily, to lessen the alleged stress on his heart injury.

Dr. Roberto Anastacio, the young Estrada's attending physician at the Makati Medical Center, said stress was a risk factor for his patient's heart injury, and his continued stay at the hospital was not enough to alleviate it.

"Psychologically, it's very, very difficult. Home is still the best place for anyone," he told reporters at the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

Anastacio was supposed to report to the court the results of the latest tests on the young Estrada. But the hearing for the defense's petition for bail did not push through because of the absence of one justice at the Sandiganbayan's Third Division.

Along with his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, Jinggoy is facing charges of plunder, a non-bailable charge because it involves a capital offense.

Jinggoy, Anastacio said, continues to suffer from obesity and hypertension.

Anastacio said that his patient told him that he had cut down on his smoking, limiting himself to 3 to 4 cigarettes a day, from an average of two to three packs a day.

The doctor earlier recommended that Jinggoy watch his eating habits—urging him to eat only a balanced diet—and to stop smoking.

Citing the recommendation of Anastacio for Jinggoy to be allowed to go home, his lawyers have filed a motion for bail Jinggoy has been staying at the Makati Medical Center since July where he had underwent a series of tests to check his heart condition.

Government prosecutors have opposed the defense motion for bail saying that health reasons could not be invoked as ground for a petition for bail.

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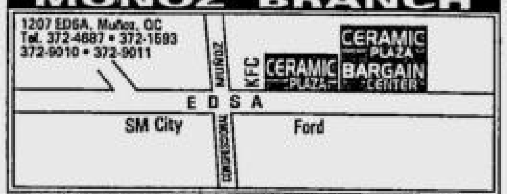

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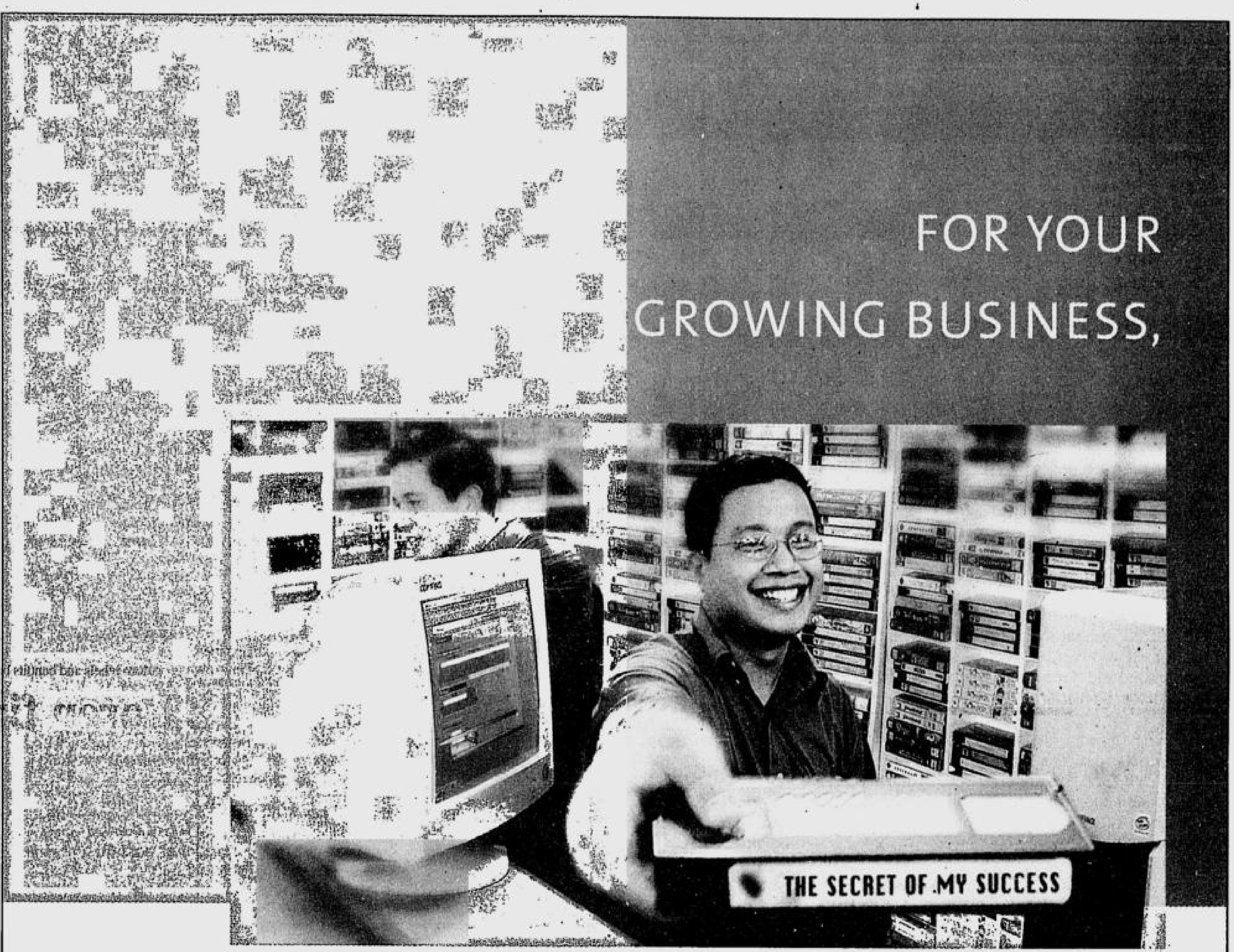

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EDITORIALS

Dividing people

WITH ITS LIMITLESS capacity to divide people, cloning is supreme when cloning controversies. Many of those who are in the forefront of the technology have a merciless appetite for whipping up media storms. Last March, Italian infertility doctor Severino Antinori and American researcher Panos Zavos announced that they would start cloning human beings toward the end of the year. This month, the two allied themselves with Cloneaid, a cult-like scientific group, and announced before the US National Academy of Sciences that they would go on with the project, come hell or high water.

A similar uproar met US President George W. Bush's decision to continue federal-funded research into stem cells from human embryos but limiting it to cells that have already been extracted, so that his government would not support the destruction of new embryos. Proponents and supporters of research called the decision a step in the right direction, but "unfortunately, a frustratingly small step."

Both the scientists and Bush justified continued research for the benefit of humanity. Antinori said their experiment would benefit childless couples, while Bush said the research would help people suffering from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. But even Bush's balanced approach to the matter has not satisfied sufferers who understandably want a more determined policy favoring research and experimentation. The clock is ticking on their grave ailments, so they view Bush's decision as really putting a stop to further federal grant for cloning research, like unplugging the life support system sustaining somebody in a coma and letting it just chug along until it quiets down and loses steam and the patient dies.

But even patients with debilitating diseases must have flinched at the gung-ho attitude of scientists and researchers, who seem bent on shocking both sides of the divide just for the sake of creating shock. Their insensitivity calls to mind Jack Kevorkian, the so-called "Dr. Death," who flaunts his campaign to provide mercy killing to victims of terminal illnesses. In both instances, cloning and euthanasia proponents seem to neglect or trivialize the difficult issues involved. These are issues of life and death.

Playing God

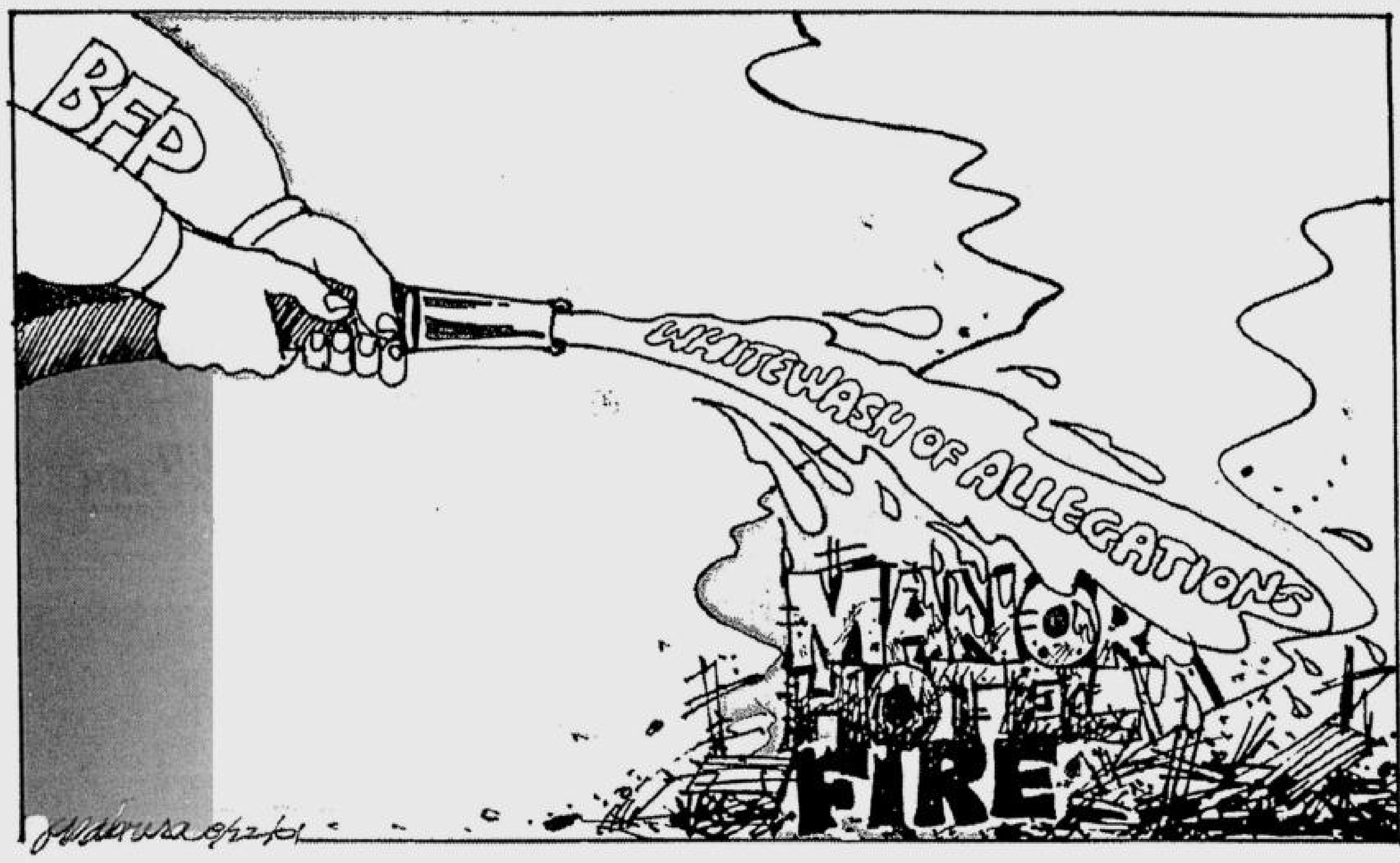
LIKE Kevorkian tinkering with death as if he's just checking his car, scientists and researchers trifle with molecular cloning and gene alteration as if they're just fiddling with a new toy. The plain fact is that their experimentation has sordid moral costs. In the case of stem-cell research, it would mean the harvest of embryos for arbitrary testing. The process is an incentive to abortion.

Those who rejoice at the prospect of cloning even for "human benefits" should realize that the technology is messy and dangerous. Physicist Richard Seed boasted in 1998 that he would clone the first human in 18 months and predicted as many as 200,000 clones a year. He was called "mad" not only for his stupid boast, but because his estimate was too optimistic even by the standards of "miracle science." In the case of Dolly, the first sheep to be cloned, success only came out of 227 tries, with only 29 embryos surviving beyond six days.

How many human embryos will have to be experimented with, mutilated and destroyed just to yield one success? Even success will not come with perfection, the foolish, materialistic ideal that has driven this biotechnological madness. The more thoughtful scientists admit cloning cannot be done safely. In animals, the technology causes birth defects and deaths.

Even cloning for the sake of harvesting therapeutic materials and saving lives cannot be justified. The cloned would be a person, not a property, and it wouldn't be right for him or his parts to be harvested just to save others. Doctors and scientists who do this seem to forget the Hippocratic oath: "*Primum, non nocere.*" Before anything else, do no harm to the person.

Cloning therefore represents what Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P., executive director of the Committee on Bioethics of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, called an "aberration" and manifestation of "man's propensity to play God." It reflects the collapse of human values in science. As the Pontifical Academy of Science put it, cloning "represents the terrible aberration to which value-free science is driven and is a sign of the terrible malaise of our civilization which looks to science and 'quality of life' as surrogates for the meaning of life and its salvation."



Lim speaks out on Wong and the drug menace

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE A detective novel, the plot becomes more mysterious and more dangerous. And like the Watergate scandal, more pieces of the jigsaw puzzle surface as layer after layer of information is exposed like an onion being peeled. That is the scandal involving Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his friend Kim Wong, Col. Victor Corpus, Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador, and many others who will soon be involved as the story unfolds.

Last Monday at the Kapihan sa Manila, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, also former chief of the National Bureau of Investigation and former Manila mayor, added to the growing picture with information about the mysterious disappearance of a Chinese interpreter employed by the Philippine National Police. He was assisted by his partner in his radio-TV program, the pretty Kay Dacer, a niece of the still missing (and believed murdered) Bubby Dacer,

Their story begins with a call to Kay by former PAOCTF agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong last March asking for help. The wife and mother of one Angelito Sy, a PNP interpreter, had told Rosebud that Sy has been missing since May 12, 2000. While Sy and his wife were shopping at SM North Edsa on that day, he was called on his cell phone by a Major Tanaga who said he had been ordered by Michael Ray Aquino to fetch him, Sy. When Tanaga arrived, Sy told his wife to continue shopping and he would be back for her in an hour. But the wife waited until SM closed but her husband did not return. She never saw him again.

* * *

They related they went to Michael Ray Aquino at the PAOCTF to ask where Sy was. His reply: "Ask Tanaga." But Tanaga was nowhere to be found.

The mother narrated that Sy had told her about an incident on May 11, 2000, the day before his disappearance, with Kim Wong, the friend of Lacson and many other important people like Mayor Lito Atienza, police officials and justices and judges.

Sy had reportedly greeted Wong: "*O, meron pala kayong malaking* drug shipment *na darating* (So you will have a big drug shipment arriving)."

Wong was surprised. "*Saan mo nalaman 'yan* (Where did you learn that)?"

"*Sa mga* contact *ko sa* Hong Kong (From my contacts in Hong Kong)."

Wong reportedly became angry. "*Hindi mo nalalaman ang sinasabi mo* (You don't know what you're saying)," he said and left in a huff. The next day, Major Tanaga fetched Sy and they both disappeared.

Lim said he knew Wong, who donated T-shirts and other campaign materials but denied that they were close friends. Wong was an aide of Siy Pio Lato whom Lim admitted was a close friend. Councilor Ocampo said at the Kapihan that then Vice Mayor Atienza had asked him to introduce him, Atienza, to Wong.

Lim said Wong was only a small-time T-shirt supplier so he was surprised when he learned that the latter had built three seafront restaurants inside the Luneta Park.

Lim said that when he heard the story about the missing Angelito Sy, he suspected that Wong was dealing drugs, that is why he accumulated so much money in such a short time. He said he went on the air with his suspicions to warn the justices, judges and other people Wong was cultivating.

He said he met with NBI Chief Reynaldo Wycoco and PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza and told them about his suspicion that Wong may have something to do with drugs and the disappearance of Sy. With that information, Lim said, the next step should have been to interrogate Wong. But the two chiefs did nothing, he said.

He appealed to Wycoco, Mendoza and Corpus to work together and stop the drug menace.

* * *

We talked to Wycoco immediately after the Kapihan. He admitted that Lim did talk to him and Mendoza about Wong and the disappearance of Sy. Wycoco said he had wanted to talk to Tanaga but the man had already left for the United States. However, he did not say why Wong was not questioned. He said the NBI and the PNP are making separate investigations of the Lacson-Wong affair.

We tried to contact PNP Chief Mendoza but he was not available:

Would Lim and Kay Dacer be willing to testify before the Senate and have a face-to-face confrontation with Wong?

"We will testify anywhere, in the Senate, in the courts, anywhere, face-to-face, back-to-back, side-to-side," Lim replied.

But there is not enough evidence to link Wong to drugs and to the disappearance of Sy, he was told.

"That is why law enforcement agencies have to investigate some more. Look for circumstantial evidence. Look for witnesses," Lim answered. "Why was he giving gifts to important people left and right? An indication that he wants their protection."

He acknowledged, however, that Lacson and Wong's other friends may not have known about Wong's drug connection, if any.

An ardent enemy of drug pushers, Lim said the drug menace is growing and spreading like a cancer and if don't watch out, we will become, as Corpus warned, a narco-state like Colombia. The whole government, and the people, should work very, very hard together to stamp it out, he said.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

First things first

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE read the e-mails and the commentaries in the newspapers, and they're full of bitterness about the "old boys club mentality" of the Senate and the judiciary. Col. Victor Corpus is right, they say. Corruption does reach the highest places in this country, which should make us wonder how we will ever be able to rid ourselves of it, short of a bloody revolution. The corrupt will always fly to the side of the corrupt, closing ranks with them to save their own hides.

I do not share the gloom. I do think corruption can be curbed, or even stopped, in this country. All we need is to apply a strategy guerrillas have known all along, which is to take only one enemy at a time.

We do have an excellent opportunity to curb corruption at this point and that is by pinning down Panfilo Lacson and Joseph Estrada to it. All we need is focus, a sense or priority, a single target. That target is them, whose cases are intertwined to begin with. Forget that some other senators are guilty as well of thievery, petty or otherwise. Forget that the judiciary has earned the reputation of harboring "hoodlums in robes." They are a monumental distraction at this point.

We convict Erap, a former president, and Lacson, a current senator, of corruption and the very tectonic plates of public service in this country will shift. It will be an upheaval the likes of which we have not seen before. Its tremors will be felt in the obscurest corners of the bureaucracy and make the pettiest bureaucrat tremble. We convict Erap and Lacson for corruption, and we show this country once and for all that crooks are not *ma-abilidad*, *wais* and cute; they are criminals, like rapists and murderers, that we send to jail. That should be our single-minded purpose.

I do not see why we should greatly worry about a biased legislature and judiciary compromising the inquiry on Lacson. Lest we forget, a House committee, notably in the person of Didagen Dilangalen, also tried to gag Chavit Singson when he tried to spill the beans on his friend and patron, Erap. And as the Senate goes, we're so much better off today than last year, when the senators grilled Singson. Then the Senate was overwhelmingly biased against him in favor of Erap. Then the senators were far more compromised, having been beneficiaries of presidential largesse and generosity. Despite these, Singson's case prospered, by divine intervention or human perseverance, or both. Truth is compelling, in more ways than one. Like faith, it has been known to move mountains, or recalcitrant investigators.

Then, too, the legal system's luminaries or guns for hire, not the least among them a former chief justice, who was Andres Narvasa, rose full force to Erap's defense. That did not prevent a hastily assembled team of representatives-lawyers from giving the world to see the depths of presidential perfidy, despite much plodding, wrong cues and a babel of accents. Indeed, that did not prevent Hilario Davide from giving the impeachment trial an aura of rectitude and majestic uprightness, making it one of the best impeachment trials the world had ever seen. Before the end of it, law had been restored to its proper place at the head of the table, resplendent once more in the garb of courage and idealism.

But the crucial thing there was that Singson was unshakeable in his testimony, he was unassailable in his beliefs. More to the point, he had documents to support his accusations. They were not perfect by any means, but they were sufficient to make a case. He stuck only to what he knew, he spoke only of one thing, which was Erap's order for him to collect money from the *jueteng* lords. Despite the efforts of Erap's allies in the Senate to rattle him, despite the efforts of Erap's allies in the impeachment body to trip him, he stood his ground. That was what made him believable.

That is what I for one would like to see in Corpus' testimony. The first thing he should do is get Ador Mawanay out of the way. That fellow isn't doing any good, he is messing everything up, turning potential allies into enemies. Corpus himself should take the hot seat and tell his truth as best he can, in as uncluttered a way as he can. That is by focusing on one issue only, which is the money laundering activities he has accused Lacson and Erap of engaging in. The other cases can come later.

First, let him show the documents linking Lacson (and Erap) to stashing loot abroad the way Singson showed the documents linking Erap to extorting money from *jueteng* lords. We do not need crusaders, or do-gooders, we need witnesses who know what they are talking about. Singson was by no stretch of the imagination a crusader, but we believed him. He was by no stretch of the imagination a do-gooder, but we took his side. And doing so brought a shadowy president down.

Which brings me to one last crucial point. I do not know why we should worry unduly about a biased or even corrupt Senate and judiciary thwarting justice when we have public opinion, or people power, to rely on to thwart **them**. Erap's allies in the Senate and judiciary did try to do that in the impeachment trial, and lost. The point is to give public opinion or people power something definite to work on, something definite to chew on. That something cannot be a nebulous "the Senate and judiciary are just as corrupt." That is not something that can move us to action, that is something that can freeze us to immobility. Show proof that Lacson, with Erap's blessings or instructions, stole money and tried to hide it abroad, and we will rise to see that justice is done. And we will raze down anything and anyone that stands in our path. We did it before, we can do it again.

We can curb corruption, we can stop corruption. All we need is to know how. And for that, all we need is to heed the lessons of the past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Velarde's scornful slip

THE FLAMBOYANT religious preacher, Mike Velarde, unwittingly betrayed his political leanings with a slip of the tongue when he introduced President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as "*ang kasalukuyang pangalawang pangulo ng Pilipinas* (the current vice president of the Philippines)."

Velarde was introducing the President to the crowd during the celebration last Sunday of the El Shaddai's 17th anniversary and of Velarde's 62nd birthday.

The President pretended not to hear the offending statement and went ahead to address the crowd, but Velarde tried to repair quickly the damage left by his gaffe by saying he had stammered and by inventing another tongue-twister that even made him ridiculous. Velarde is not known for stammering; on the contrary he is legendary for his glib tongue—which explains why when he preaches, hard-earned cash from his followers pours down the collection baskets like monsoon rain.

Velarde made the introduction in front of the El Shaddai's VIP guests, among them Senate President Franklin Drilon, and opposition Senators Luisa Ejercito and Panfilo Lacson.

Velarde's slip revealed his scorn of the legitimating functions of state institutions and of his predilection to play the numbers game. Velarde not only was politicking on his organization's anniversary but also gave us a peek into his thinking that he does not recognize the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

The legitimacy of the government has been upheld by no less than the Supreme Court, the political institutions of the Republic and the diplomatic corps, and yet this religious leader serves arrogant notice that he does not recognize the presidency of Ms Macapagal. Velarde's correction came as an afterthought.

Leaders of religious organizations, with a mass following like the El Shaddai, have come to believe that because of their numbers, they can seat or unseat governments, they are the fountainhead of bestowing legitimacy to an administration and they can disregard declarations of legitimation by public institutions.

ANALYSIS

Amando
Doronila

The spring of this attitude and the political game unceasingly being played by Velarde is the mass of the El Shaddai, estimated at around six million, and probably inflated. Velarde apparently continues to believe that his mass adherents determine who gets to be elected president or even senators. With this mass, he does not seem to care whether Philippine political institutions have made their declarations of legitimacy.

But there's a fallacy in this assumption from which Velarde's numbers game is projected. The El Shaddai is not a disciplined or monolithic bloc of votes like the Iglesia ni Cristo. Velarde can mobilize a million people for prayer rallies at the Luneta, as he did last November on behalf of Estrada, but this mass is merely an illusion of his political clout. The El Shaddai solid vote is as mythical and as hollow as a Catholic vote. If there's no such thing as a Catholic vote in this country, there's no such thing as an El Shaddai vote. The El Shaddai members have more autonomy than what their leaders would like the public to believe.

In the crisis of Estrada last November and again during People Power II, he used the El Shaddai mass in his numbers game to show that he can mobilize on behalf of Estrada more warm bodies at the Luneta and even Edsa than the opposition. The Luneta El Shaddai crowd was a crowd without conviction and fervor for Estrada. It was part of the Estrada numbers game born out of the belief that numbers provide legitimacy regardless of what political institutions say. When the military withdrew support for Estrada on Jan. 19, the generals and the officer corps monitored the crowd and confirmed that the crowd mobilized by the El Shaddai and INC was larger than those mobilized by the opposition.

In fact, the crowd at Edsa II never reached one million—the magic figure—at its peak, but what the military observed was the intensity and fervor of the outrage and the nationwide scale in which that outrage was expressed. Thus, the military ignored the one million benchmark which many opposition groups tried to mobilize to trigger a military withdrawal. Military withdrawal came without this one million and it was based on the conviction that Estrada had lost the capacity and authority to govern.

Velarde continues to play this numbers game which is now discredited and is no longer decisive in unseating unpopular governments. With this changed political dynamic, which diminishes the political clout of the El Shaddai, political leaders should stop deluding themselves into playing Velarde's numbers game.

As a religious leader, Velarde's primary concern is the spiritual concerns of his followers, but the fact is that he has been using the El Shaddai mass as a leverage to extract concessions from government, and to show that he is a political powerbroker. With this leverage, he thinks he can insult sitting presidents and can deny the government legitimacy.

One wonders why President Macapagal, Senators Drilon, Ejercito and Lacson and Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila continue to pay homage to Velarde, hoping to win the support of his inflated constituency. Velarde has made obsequious remarks that he would back President Macapagal in 2004 if she "performs well."

Of course, if she delivers, her chances of reelection would be enhanced and she would not need the backing of the El Shaddai. Results are her best endorsement—not Velarde's obsequiousness.

By continuing to kowtow to Velarde, political leaders of both government and the opposition are being taken hostage by Velarde. They are vulnerable to his manipulation and they perpetuate the myth that their political life is dependent on this religious leader who has hijacked religion as a weapon for political power-brokerage. If Velarde has become a political monster, politicians are to blame for blowing up Velarde's political power of life and death over them.

Why silence from MAD and Drug Watch?

GIVEN that Col. Victor Corpus has premised his explosive revelations on his perception that there is a "national emergency" to avert the transformation of our country into a "narco-state," there's a niggling question on my mind.

And that is: Why haven't we heard from either the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) or Drug Watch, supporting or denouncing Corpus? MAD and Drug Watch, if you will recall, are the two most prominent organizations claiming the eradication of drug addiction as their core advocacy. Both groups even participated in the party-list elections, and said the No. 1 item in their respective legislative agenda would be the formulation of laws giving added teeth to the war against drugs.

Well, if Corpus' denunciations of alleged drug lords and narco-traffickers and financiers among our midst do not constitute at least a skirmish in the war against drugs, then I don't know what is. But why aren't MAD and Drug Watch leading the cheering, or at least sounding copycat alarms about the spread of drugs in this land?

(If, as Corpus claims, one in every 40 or so Filipinos is a drug user, then that means any typical clan or class reunion will count a drug user or two among the attendees.)

If any group has any claim on the "inside dope" on drug trafficking and drug use here, these should be MAD or Drug Watch. MAD, for instance, claims to be organized down to the barangay level, with plenty of support from the Erap-era Malacañang, police and local governments. It even managed to garner more than a million votes in the last elections. Why isn't it making its voice heard in this acoustic war between Corpus and his growing army of detractors? Or was MAD only set up to give actor Richard Gomez an alternative career?

* * *

IN HIS privilege speech the other day, Senate minority floor leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel took "civil society and the media" to task for allegedly "misunderstanding" the purpose of last Friday's committee hearing.

To denunciations that the senators did not seem at all interested in hearing the truth, or falsity, of Corpus' charges that senators are involved in drug trafficking and money laundering, Pimentel said this was not the purpose of

AT LARGE

Rina
Jimenez-David

the hearing at all. The hearing, he said, was in response to the privilege speech of Sen. Robert Barbers defending the honor of his deputy chief of staff. The staffer's photo was inadvertently used by Corpus in giving a face to Kim Wong, the alleged drug connection of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In other words, they were not interested in getting to the bottom of Corpus' charges, but only in berating him for his "sloppy" intelligence work. Which explains, said Pimentel, why so much time was devoted to getting Corpus to admit the weaknesses in his methods, and to clear those he had smeared by design or carelessness.

As a taxpayer, I am far from satisfied or mollified by Pimentel's explanation. You mean, so much of my tax money was spent to clear a Senate staffer's name, this after Corpus had repeatedly and previously apologized for the lapse? Don't our senators have anything better to do?

And, having summoned everyone involved in the revelations, including Corpus' superiors, why didn't the senators then use the golden opportunity to determine once and for all if Corpus is telling the truth or not?

* * *

SOME folks see canny method in Corpus' madness. The matter of the "Wong" photo, for instance, may not have been an accident or stupid inadvertence at all.

For weeks before this, they noted, Corpus had been saying that he had been forced to bring his case against Lacson to the media because he did not trust the "system." What he wanted, Corpus said, was to air his findings before a Senate inquiry, then leave it up to the Senate to determine if there was a case warranting action or referral to the courts.

But no matter the sensational headlines and uproar, the Senate seemed more inclined to ignore Corpus, leading some to speculate that the senators were leery of taking on a colleague, especially one with such a reputation as Lacson.

Then Corpus shows the public a photo of a senior aide of a senator, mistakenly naming him as Kim Wong, Lacson's alleged connection to Hong Kong triads involved in drug trafficking. He may have been bullied and bamboozled, made to appear like a lunatic, an amateur, an insubordinate officer with a penchant for ignoring the chain of command, but Corpus at last got his chance to finally and formally present his charges against his nemesis. He finally found the key to get past the senators' inclination to *dedma* his story.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to colleagues Sheila Coronel, named Outstanding Print Journalist, and Jessica Soho, named Outstanding Broadcast Journalist, in the recent "Search for Outstanding Journalists" sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

Dean Armando Malay, retired journalist and activist, mentor and adviser to generations of Filipino journalists, and father to outstanding journalists in their own right, is also the first recipient of the Distinguished Leadership in Journalism Award.

The awards to Malay, Coronel and Soho were announced yesterday in a press conference, but formal awarding ceremonies will be held on Oct. 12.

While other journalism awards recognize members of the media for competence and craftsmanship, the Metrobank awards seek to honor outstanding journalists "who excel in all aspects of their profession—from craftsmanship to professionalism, social responsibility and personal integrity." It was the last criterion, said AIJC's Florangel Rosario Braid, that was quite problematic, requiring further cross-checking and verification by respected senior journalists.

"We want to show young people that there are models within the profession whom they can look up to, emulate and imitate," said Metrobank Foundation's Chito Sobrepena.

The awards come with cash prizes, so a little treat would be in order, I guess.

Intelligence reports, 100 years ago

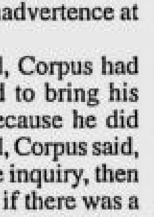
AFTER WATCHING Victor Corpus and "Ador" Mawanay on television, I dug up 19th-century surveillance reports. These photocopied documents with raw intelligence data on Filipinos being watched by the Spaniards before and during the Philippine Revolution of 1896 make boring reading. Secret police followed suspects around, noted where they went, who they visited and how long they stayed in the homes of others who then became suspects. Jose Rizal knew this and avoided implicating friends and relatives unnecessarily by staying in a hotel when he returned to the Philippines in 1892. His relatives were slighted but this could not be avoided.

Reading raw intelligence data on Rizal today made me laugh because some reports are beyond belief. For example, in early 1897, three months after his execution, Rizal was said to be alive and well, walking around Manila. One report even contains a story of Rizal's corpse turning into a beautiful white rooster that flew from the Paco cemetery to Cavite where it was joined by Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora. Remember, the three priests were executed in 1872. While it is understandable for Rizal to be cloaked by myth, rumor and gossip after his execution, the situation was the same even in his lifetime.

In his correspondence, Rizal laughed away rumors that he was a friend of the German Prince Bismarck because they had never met. He wished that the position of chair be offered to him in a prestigious German university so that he would not have to deal with patients who had no money to pay. A friendly race up Makiling with his Spanish bodyguard was thought to be an act of taking the Philippines for Germany, why? He planted a white flag atop the mountain. The German connection was so strong that even if his basic medical training and his license to practice medicine were from the Central University of Madrid, he was known as "the German Doctor (*El doctor*

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R.
Ocampo



Aleman)," which explains why simple folk often referred to him as "Dr. Uliman."

To complicate things further, he was said to possess superhuman powers—some even say he was divine. One explanation for all this was that simple folk misinterpreted his sleight of hand tricks as real magic and that his eye operations literally gave sight to the blind, an act that was not only miraculous but also Christ-like. At one point, Rizal laughed away these fanciful stories, unmindful of the fact that the Spanish authorities—prodded by raw intelligence data—took everything too seriously. These wild statements that our senators today would describe as "ridiculous" or "preposterous" or "incredible" were what got him into trouble in the first place.

Governor-General Despujol, infamous for ordering Rizal's banishment to Dapitan, sent an inquiry to Madrid just to determine if Rizal was a German subject. In an undated letter, Despujol remarks that, "It is desirable to verify this and in case it is true, find out how far my administrative authority goes concerning foreigners."

Few people actually read Rizal's letters, much less the other documents concerning him, so it is easy to miss periodic reports the politico-military governor of Dapitan sent to the governor-general in Manila regarding Rizal. One governor, Ricardo Carnicero, won Rizal over by allowing him to stay in the governor's house and it was during many after dinner conversations (with Rizal's tongue loosened by the after-dinner drinks) that the prisoner was induced to talk about his life and ideals. Eventually, Carnicero was won over and the two men became friends.

The next governor did not see things the same way and was suspicious of Rizal and the people who came to see him. In June 1893 security was tight and the governor discovered that three people selling religious images were from Calamba. They were asked to leave. Someone arrived from Manila carrying mangoes for Rizal. He was asked to leave too. From his correspondence we know that Rizal liked fresh mangoes, as a student in Europe his family sent mango jam and even pickled mangoes (*burong mangga*) but the governor argued that there were plenty of mangoes in Dapitan. Why waste P18 on a 10-day round trip from Manila to Dapitan to deliver mangoes? Were these people spies? Was there a plot to free Rizal from exile? We cannot tell from the raw intelligence data.

One mysterious visitor was Pablo Mercado who visited Rizal in December 1893. Rizal described him as, "tall, thickset, slightly squint-eyed, dark, slender, with broad shoulders and impudent manners. He smokes a lot, spits even more and has thin lips." Later investigation revealed that his real name was Florencio Nanaman, 30 years old, single and from Cagayan de Misamis. He claimed that his expenses were paid for and that he was to be rewarded by the friars if he could obtain writings that would incriminate Rizal. Was this his only mission? Was he just a spy? Perhaps an assassin? If people at present are having difficulty with Corpus and Mawanay, can you imagine how historians of the future make sense of the raw intelligence data that comes into their hands? That is one of the challenges of history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Colombia and RP: Peas in a pod?

THE PHILIPPINES is not the mirror image of Colombia—not yet. But notwithstanding our natural differences, we share many bonds arising from a common Hispanic past that introduced religious and cultural similarities to our two countries.

As we look further, we may discover that the unfortunate past and present history of Colombia does offer a frightening look toward where we may be heading. To draw insights into our own problems in an attempt to solve them, it may be convenient to look closely at Colombia, a country described as "the oldest democracy in South America."

COMMENTARY

Miguel Perez-Rubio

On April 9, 1948, the charismatic Liberal party leader, Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, was assassinated. In Bogota, capital of Columbia, massive rioting took place; 2000 persons were killed. It is interesting to note that the police sided with the rioters.

His death aggravated the 30 years of "La Violencia" that started in 1946—a civil war that cost the lives of 300,000 Colombians. The bloody confrontation between the Liberals and Conservatives served no social, political or economic purpose except to eventually exacerbate the instability and deteriorate further the institutions of that country.

So much for those who would like to see the Philippines undergo our own version of "Ang Karahasan" for the purpose of achieving a catharsis of sorts to cleanse our country from its present ills.

After the period of armed confrontation, the Liberals and Conservatives agreed to share power alternately: four years of rule by the Liberal Party followed by four years by the Conservative Party—a political accommodation that precluded other parties from sharing the spoils of power. This decision unlike a wise Solomonic decision, did not consult the will of the people or establish a measure of justice but merely affirmed the division of the political "cake." It may be inferred that the undemocratic though pragmatic steps taken such as an "a priori" agreement between parties to alternate in governance defeat the very essence of democracy. The voice of the people in an electoral exercise stayed in limbo.

The extremist left groups: M-19 Movement; the Marxist-Leninist Soviet-inspired FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Colombianas); the ELN (Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional—a Che Guevara-inspired group) continued to grow—some such as the M-19 conducting acts of sheer terrorism. The others continued their armed struggle.

In May 28, 1984, a peace accord (Acuerdos de la Uribe) was reached between the government of President Belisario Betancur and the guerrillas. The communist FARC cleverly pursued a two-pronged policy; on the one hand to enter the democratic route and participate in the electoral process and with the other hand to continue the relentless class and armed struggle. To implement their peaceful offensive, they formed the UP (Union Patriotica) in 1985 to enable this party and its Marxist members to launch their candidacy for the elections to be held in 1986.

This tactical effort bore fruit as 23 representatives and 6 senators were elected to Congress; 350 councilors were elected at the municipal level. However, participation in the democratic process while holding on to their arms and veteran combatants did not bode well for the Colombian government. Soon enough, the bullets started anew, the dead were buried and the displaced roamed the countryside and the cities. As a consequence of the renewal of hostilities, a vendetta took place by paramilitary groups against the UP; many of its members were assassinated. Violence begot violence.

In the early '80s, while the government and the guerrillas either were negotiating, reaching a temporary agreement, or resuming armed combat, the drug lords and their "goodies" made a more powerful appearance in Colombia. Cocaine rapidly spread across the world as this chemical behaved as a virulent virus that undermined the health of hundred of thousands. Fewer numbers in and out of Colombia became instant billionaires and the holders of diverse currencies that they proceeded to launder throughout the financial circles throughout all corners of this planet. Cali and Medellin became rival capitals of narco-trafficking. A new criminal element had entered the political and social fabric of Colombia. At first, the government dealt with this new development in a forceful way with the army and the police trying to eradicate this growing menace. But corruption made its ugly appearance among the many while those honest enforcers of the law whether military, police, or judiciary fell victims to the executioners of the drug cartels.

To further complicate matters, the AUC (Antodefensas Unidas Colombianas) a paramilitary group well armed with sophisticated weapons was organized by landlords to do battle with the leftist guerrillas forces. This group was and still is extremely ruthless. It is the perpetrator of a great portion of the human rights violations going on in Colombia. It is not alone. Murders, kidnappings and robberies are committed on a daily basis by all the different factions fighting and ruling the nation.

Colombia is anarchy, Colombia is chaos. 25,000 to 30,000 persons are killed every year by these groups. The countryside is filled with a floating population of evacuees escaping the war brought to them one day by one group to be followed the next day by another contending faction. There are huge territories governed by the FARC, by the ELN, by the AUC. In many areas, only firepower delineates who is in control of a territory. This poor country had become Balkanized by its own armed people—divided into zones and governed by armies of warlords.

Nonetheless, the export of cocaine thrives and the teats of the narco-traffickers supply enough money to finance all the factions sucking the narco commodity and the wealth it produces.

Betancur was succeeded by President Virgilio Barco who planned a state visit to the Philippines in 1988 during the administration of President Aquino. Unfortunately, Barco fell ill on his arrival at the airport in Seoul. He underwent an operation in South Korea, and later returned to Colombia. After his cancelled state visit, a Colombian diplomatic mission came to Manila to explain to our President the circumstances for the cancellation.

The head of the mission in a candid exchange of views, mentioned that the accords of La Uribe that allowed the FARC to participate in the democratic process while retaining their arms had been a costly mistake by their previous administration. It had allowed the guerrillas the best of two worlds and Colombia would continue to regret that accord for a very long time. The press in Colombia call their country in derision Locombia. What will our press call our country as we follow the Colombian path?

President Ernesto Samper succeeded Barco. The latter underwent a most difficult campaign because there was very strong evidence his victory was tainted with money from the Cali drug cartel. The political climate worsened and the crisis deteriorated further when Congress did not vote in favor of investigating Samper. Thus, in a faraway country in 1994, a President was elected with the help of narco-money. Could this happen 10 years after in our country in 2004?

Do we face some of the problems of Colombia and other IberoAmerican countries? A peasantry living under dire circumstances and forced to flee the rural areas to urban centers. A peasantry in armed struggle against a government whether it calls itself Huk or NPA or Sendero Luminoso or Tupamaros—a jobless, poverty-stricken urban population devoid of hope and sunk in the most miserable of despair and frustration. A population exploding in numbers whose children beg in the streets and live in hovels.

We have *jueteng* lords and drug lords. We import prohibited drugs for local consumption. Now, we have become an importer-exporter of these drugs. A distribution center, a modern galleon trade, a well-oiled marketing enterprise. Worse still, a manufacturing processor of shabu and a grower of cannabis. Colombia is faced with a fractured government unable to eradicate the narco-state.

Finally, are we getting to where Colombia is now? Will we achieve the title of the Colombia of Asia? God help us! Let us pray for the Colombia of today and the possible Colombia of Asia tomorrow.

Miguel Perez-Rubio was the protocol officer for President Corazon Aquino.

Wrong photo bolsters Corpus' credibility

I LOOK at the mistake of Col. Victor Corpus in showing the wrong picture of Kim Wong in a different light.

It goes to show that he had absolutely no link with a suspected drug lord who seems to enjoy close associations with high-ranking public officials.

To me, it is more gratifying to know about the mistake committed. I'd rather make such a mistake rather than be linked to a suspected drug lord or be counted as one of his friends.

It should all bother us more had Corpus been associated or been a friend of Wong or had known him personally. That would require more explanations than admitting the mistake of showing the wrong picture.

We are judged by the company we keep. As the dictum goes: "Birds of the same feather flock together."

If it is any comfort, what transpired should instead serve as a relief for Corpus instead of his being too apologetic for it. Because of that mistake, more friends of Wong will surface, especially those who spoke out that the picture shown is not that of the real Kim Wong.

I accept, it should not have happened for the critics of Corpus would surely capitalize on his mistake. But now that it had, it must not be repeated. As Inday Badiday would say: "careful, careful" next time.

However, an apology is in order.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

'Friday's Senate circus'

IF last Friday's (Aug. 17) hearing on the alleged crimes against Sen. Panfilo Lacson turned into a "circus," we have no one to blame but the senators themselves. By inviting self-confessed criminal Ador Mawanay on the very first day of the hearing and giving him the same seat as that of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes beside Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus, the supposedly distinguished senators unwittingly allowed themselves to stoop down to the level of a notorious dope courier. Mawanay's testimonies and "preposterous" indictments should have been better left to the police, or the court, after the Senate had intelligently tackled Corpus' Isafp report. For being so naïve and unfocused, what the senators got was a loose cannon blasting away in their faces. Lacson proved to be the wiser mortal when he spared himself the chaos that Mawanay and his co-actors (yes, the senators) gave the audience on that unforgettable Friday circus inside the Senate hall.

Upstaged by Mawanay, the embarrassed senators sent him to jail for "telling a lie," not realizing that a dangerous precedent has been set that will henceforth hound the Senate. If in the succeeding hearings, Mawanay is spared detention by simply pleasing his inquisitors, or by deflecting his accusations against some erring senators, would that mean now that he is telling the truth?—**JOSE B. PEREZ, 3rd Street, Villa Sorabella Subd., Naga City**

Should senators do other work?

SEN. Sergio Osmeña has lifted his filibuster and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin has cited huge figures as the cost of this to the public. This brings to the attention of the people the cost of maintaining the Senate and how much of each senator's time they are under obligation to render service to the people. For instance, is it ethical for the senators to run law offices, manage and promote businesses they are associated with, remain active in media and entertainment, etc., activities which draw upon their time and the prestige of their office?

In any case, Osmeña's lonely vigil was not a total waste. He stood for certain parliamentary traditions (which may be debatable) and the Senate majority relented with Senators Loren Legarda and Manny Villar each giving up one of their two committee chairmanships, the more significant of which was Villar's committee on banks. There are some ethical concerns on the part of the Senate as a whole, and on Villar in particular that this committee on banks chairmanship is given him when he is perceived to be associated with corporations heavily indebted with several banks.

There must be a way of insulating the three pillars of government, the executive (president, vice president, department secretaries); legislative (senators and congressmen); and judiciary (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals justices and lower court judges) from temptations and opportunities to be involved in irregularities and unethical behavior. This may take the form of a waiver on the secrecy of their bank accounts when cases of graft are filed against them, barring them from being associated with businesses or activities that would exploit the influence and power of their office, inhibiting them from the practice of their professions or any activity that would draw upon their time and attention from their official duties. Their positions, elective or appointive, clothed with vast powers and authority, call for their full-time dedication. It is predictable that Sen. Juan Flavier would support statutes that would promote these goals. How many more of his colleagues will?—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

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Oreta bill lapses into law

TWO letters published in the INQUIRER, one of which was "Oreta bill a rehash of Erap's EO 81" (PDI, 7/10/01) and similar viewpoints published in other newspapers did not prevent the bill from becoming a law last Aug. 10. By not acting on it because of mass protests addressed to Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta by physical education teachers and student-majors, sports coaches and school sports professionals, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo allowed it to lapse into the 30-day period which makes a bill automatically a law if not acted upon by the President. Thus the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is now plain Department of Education with the deletion of culture and sports from its responsibilities. Add to this the policy announcement of Education Secretary Raul Roco that all extracurricular activities will only be allowed on weekends, then we are confronted with the following questions:

1. Will the Palarong Pambansa which had its first staging in school year 1949-1950 in my home province of Tuguegarao, Cagayan and hosted by the late Supt. Miguel Gaffud, finally come to an end? This is highly probable for this reason: With the Philippine Sports Commission taking over the school sports competition program and Roco prescribing that extracurricular activities will only be permitted on weekends, staging the Palarong Pambansa is an impossibility. The PSC does not have the capability to hold the lower level competitions (district, division and regional meets) necessary to identify the athletes because it does not have the personnel and even if it does, it does not have access to billeting facilities which only the schools can provide.

2. With no Palarong Pambansa to look forward to, what opportunities will our young boys and girls have to participate in school sports competitions? The Batang Pinoy of the PSC and the Palaro ng Bayan of the Department of Interior and Local Government will likewise not be possible because of the reason cited above—the PSC and the DILG depend on physical education teachers and school sports coaches who were in effect disenfranchised by the Oreta law and because only school facilities are adequate enough to serve as billeting facilities

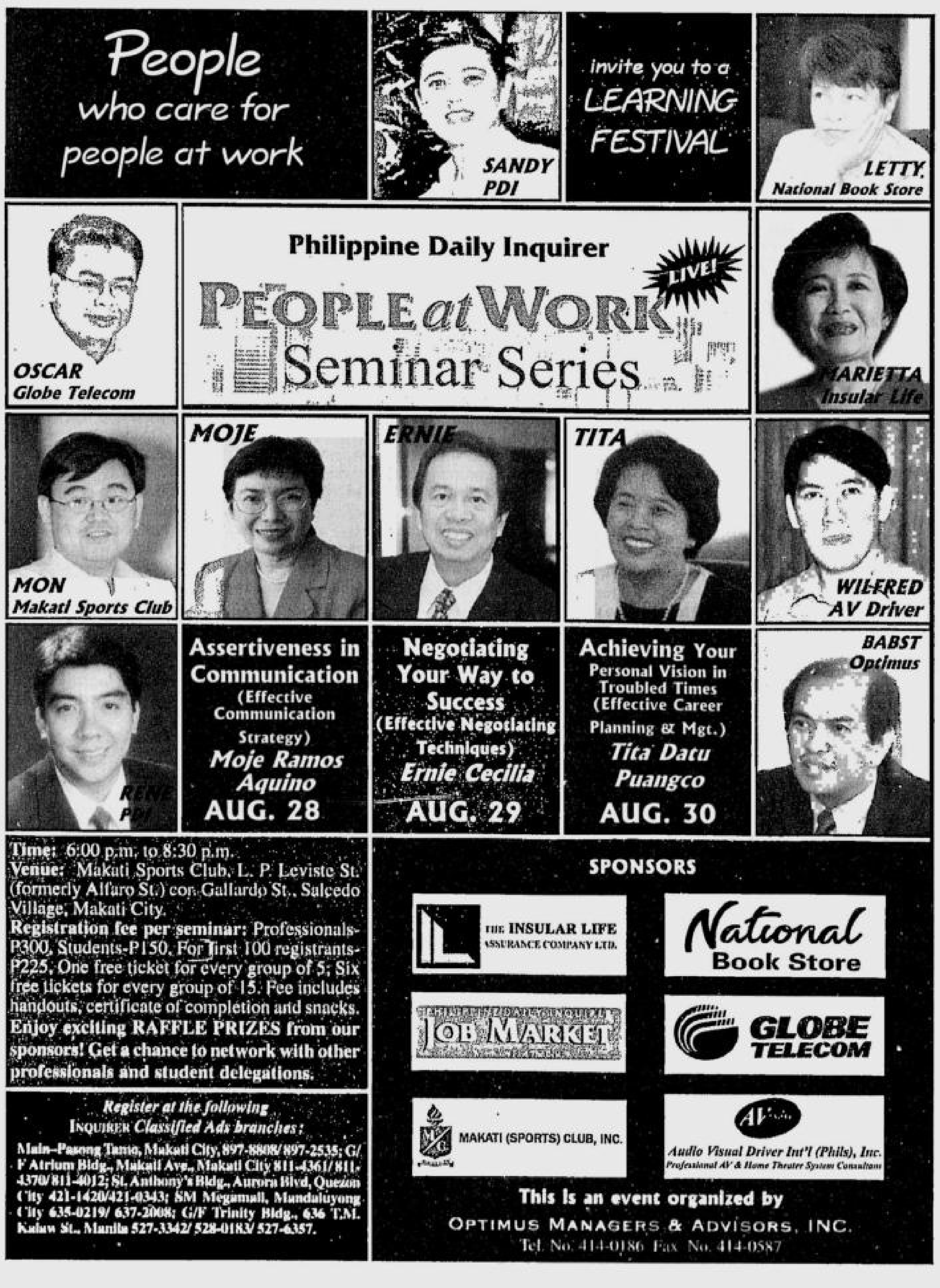
The Philippines is a country in the world that had instituted a law which hinders the participation of its youth in sports competition despite a constitutional mandate prescribing that "all educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country..." (Article XIV, Section 19, No. 2).—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Is Quezon Memorial a circle or an ellipse?

ASIDE from jokingly calling it as the "epileptic circle," I hear at times a number of field reporters and anchorpersons of certain leading radio stations refer to the Quezon Memorial Park in Quezon City as the "elliptical circle." Is it rightful to refer to this park as the "elliptical circle"?

A circle is much different from an ellipse. Shape-wise or geometrically speaking, a circle is round much unlike an ellipse which is oval, like an egg. Likewise, mathematically speaking, circles and ellipses are represented by totally different algebraic formulas.

I do not know what the official shape of the Quezon Memorial Park really is. It may be a circle and as such be properly referred to as the "Quezon Memorial Circle," or an ellipse allowing us to rightfully refer to it through its busy circumferential road as the "elliptical road." One thing is sure, however—we may never refer to it as the "elliptical circle."—**MARIO U. GARONG, 212 Alley 2, Project 6, Quezon City**



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The confusion behind 'forgiveness'

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's description of herself is quite disturbing. We as a nation can never be united if we continue to take the "easy way out" every time we are faced with a crisis. Our leaders especially Ms Macapagal must not fall into this trap and the weak excuse of "humility means forgiving" attitude because our nation's enemies are corrupt, vicious and decadent. No amount of humility and forgiveness on our part will change this. Like cancer, you cut it out or it will devour you in the end.

Beware of Bible readers, it can be misinterpreted for any human purpose. But I have only one guiding phrase that Jesus Christ spoke as he was dying on the cross: "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." We as human beings in the eyes of God may forgive, but for a leader like Jesus Christ, the man must be firm, resolute and decisive when dealing with sinners and scoundrels. Ms Macapagal must do likewise.

Forgiveness in the acts of leaders as Ms Macapagal declared is a very dangerous thing. We must never forget that where drug's ill-gotten wealth and money laundering is concerned, corruption is everywhere and anywhere. The example of Colombia is devastating. Where drug money is involved, no nation including the United States is immune to the tentacles of corruption and intimidation of our democratic principles and processes. The Philippines is no match to the drug traffickers from China and the many Kim Wongs in our country. In this sense, deposed President Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are very dangerous examples.

Ms Macapagal must realize "forgiveness" is not the opposite of "vengeance" for people like Estrada and Lacson. You do not win over these kind of people by using velvet gloves. We remind the President to be "firm, resolute and decisive." With leaders like her, we can hope to stand united.

"Healing" is for the victims, not for the culprits. The victims are the "poorest of the poor" and the culprits are well-known to all. To our President, we say "GMA, the ball is in your court." Prayers are not enough, they are only the beginning.—**SERGIO J. MONTINOLA, 231 Recoletos St., Urdaneta Village, Makati City**

Questions for a new civil service

A HUNDRED years ago, Public Law No. 5 was passed by the US government in the Philippines to establish a civil service based on merit and fitness, efficiency and honesty. The establishment of this formal structure preceded that of the Supreme Court by one year. So what kind of a civil service do we have from Emilio Aguinaldo to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo?

It was former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who reminded me that there are three elements necessary to build a strong civil service no doubt in keeping with Public Law No. 5. It must be streamlined, it must be graft and corruption-free and civil servants must be paid well.

Former Civil Service Commission chair, now Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas asked these provocative questions during our Centennial Forum 100 which I echo to all civil servants. Should civil service continue what it is today? Stable therefore static and afraid of reforms. Where security of tenure is paramount rather than performance, results and outcomes? Where salaries are standardized which can demotivate the high achievers and reward the underachievers and unachievers? Where performance cannot be evaluated objectively because of personal relationships? Where employees expect to be promoted because of their long years in the service and where mobility in jobs is seen as a character flaw of a "rolling stone that gathers no moss"? What kind of a civil servant do we want, a follower of rules regardless of how unreasonable and unjust? Someone who will allow wrongdoings because the same are inherent in the system and therefore there is no courage to change the system? A civil service that is expected to be average to be normal? No room for radicals? Should civil service be subversive to be effective change agents? Should civil service be the embodiment of the intellectual and morally gifted human capital of the nation?

It was Prime Minister Goh of Singapore who challenged the Asean heads of the Civil Service to go on a retreat to think of the unthinkables. I believe this ought to be the new paradigm for the civil servants, a new civic culture of pride and patriotism.

The civil servants are all "dots in the continuum of the time" but all can be www.com. Wishing, wanting and willing to make their contribution for the goodness of our community and country.—**CORAZON ALMA G. DE LEON, Barangay 558 RMN News Manila**

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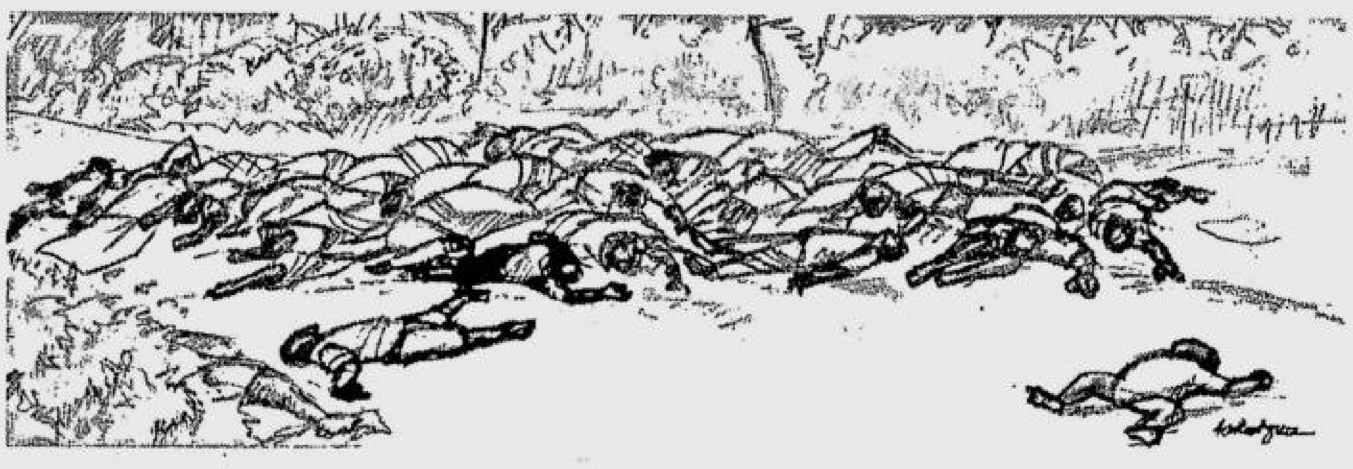
The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US expected Rwanda genocide

Still, US backed pullout of UN troops, documents say



WASHINGTON—The US government fully anticipated mass killings in Rwanda following the 1994 death of Rwanda's president but still found "insufficient justification" for retaining UN peacekeepers in the country, according to declassified documents released here Monday.

The documents, obtained by the National Security Archive, show that as bloodthirsty Hutu militias fanned out across the country, US diplomats advocated "an orderly withdrawal" of the Rwanda-based UN force known as UNAMIR that some believe could have helped protect civilians.

The killing rampage in Rwanda, now considered one of the most gruesome acts of genocide of the second half of the 20th century, was triggered by the April 6 death of Rwandan Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspicious plane crash blamed by many Hutu on ethnic Tutsi.

Within hours of the crash, according to witnesses, extremist Hutu militias backed by elements of the armed forces set up roadblocks and barricades in preparation for the 100-day massacre that would eventually take the lives of as many as 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu.

The US Defense Department knew about these activities, the documents show.

In a memorandum to undersecretary of defense Frank Wisner dated April 11, a Pentagon official noted that "unless both sides can be convinced to return to the peace process, a massive (hundreds of thousands of deaths) bloodbath will ensue that would likely spill over into Burundi."

"In addition, millions of refugees will flee into neighboring Uganda, Tanzania, and Zaire, far exceeding the absorptive capacity of those nations," the official wrote.

But just three days later, the State Department instructed the US Mission at the United Nations to work toward a withdrawal of the UNAMIR mission.

The "department believes that there is insufficient justification to retain a UN peacekeeping presence in Rwanda and that the international community must give highest priority to full, orderly withdrawal of all UNAMIR personnel as soon as possible," the confidential cable said.

The UN Security Council voted to pull out the troops on April 21.

But even as images of mutilated bodies began appearing on television screens, US officials were loath to classify the killings as genocide for fear it would compel the United States to intervene, the documents indicated.

"Be careful," warned a secret memo circulated on May 1 among top defense officials. "Legal at State was worried about this yesterday—genocide finding could commit USG (the US Government) to actually "do something."

As late as May 21, the term "genocide" was taboo for US diplomats, according assistant secretary of state George Moose, who urged his boss, Warren Christopher, to reconsider the ban.

Another three weeks would go by before use of the term was authorized, the documents show.

The Pentagon also shot down a proposal to use US electronic jamming planes to silence Hutu hate radio broadcasts inciting further killings.

In a letter to the National Security Council on May 5, Wisner said a suitable jamming plane "costs approximately 8,500 dollars per flight hour and requires a semi-secure area of operations due to its vulnerability and limited self-protection."

National Security Archive project director William Ferroggiaro said "the documents provide essential evidence of official inaction in the face of the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994." *AFP*

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No US well wishes for Milosevic

WASHINGTON—Just a week after bidding Cuban President Fidel Castro an unhappy birthday on the occasion of his 75th, the US State Department Monday offered similar snide wishes to Slobodan Milosevic as the former Yugoslav leader turned 60.

State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker said he hoped Milosevic, who spent his birthday in a jail cell in The Hague awaiting trial on war crimes charges, would use the occasion to reflect on the "suffering" he had caused the people of the Balkans.

"I hope, as he blows out the candles on his cake, that he thinks back a little bit on all the suffering he caused to the millions of people in the Balkans as he implemented policies that were rather outdated and belong more in a medieval state than in contemporary Europe," he said.

Alerted by reporters that jailers at The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) had barred Milosevic's visiting family from bringing a cake to celebrate the birthday, Reeker amended his remark to say "the metaphorical or, perhaps, metaphysical cake."

Last week, as Castro celebrated his 75th birthday, Reeker called on the communist leader to step down as he had reached the "mandatory retirement age for dictators."

"Inasmuch as Mr. Castro has reached the mandatory retirement age for dictators, we hope he will be moving on soon into retirement," Reeker said Aug. 13.

The spokesperson noted Monday that Milosevic had already been ousted from power and had been transferred to the ICTY in June to face war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in ordering the Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in 1998-99.

Milosevic's "retirement came early and we're certainly glad to see that," Reeker said. *AFP*

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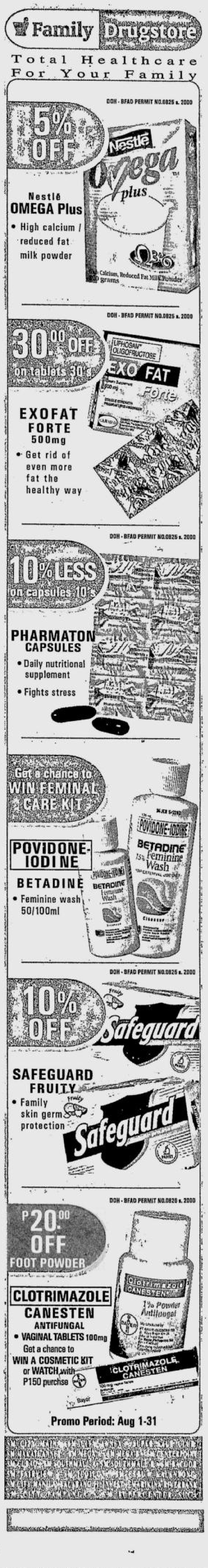

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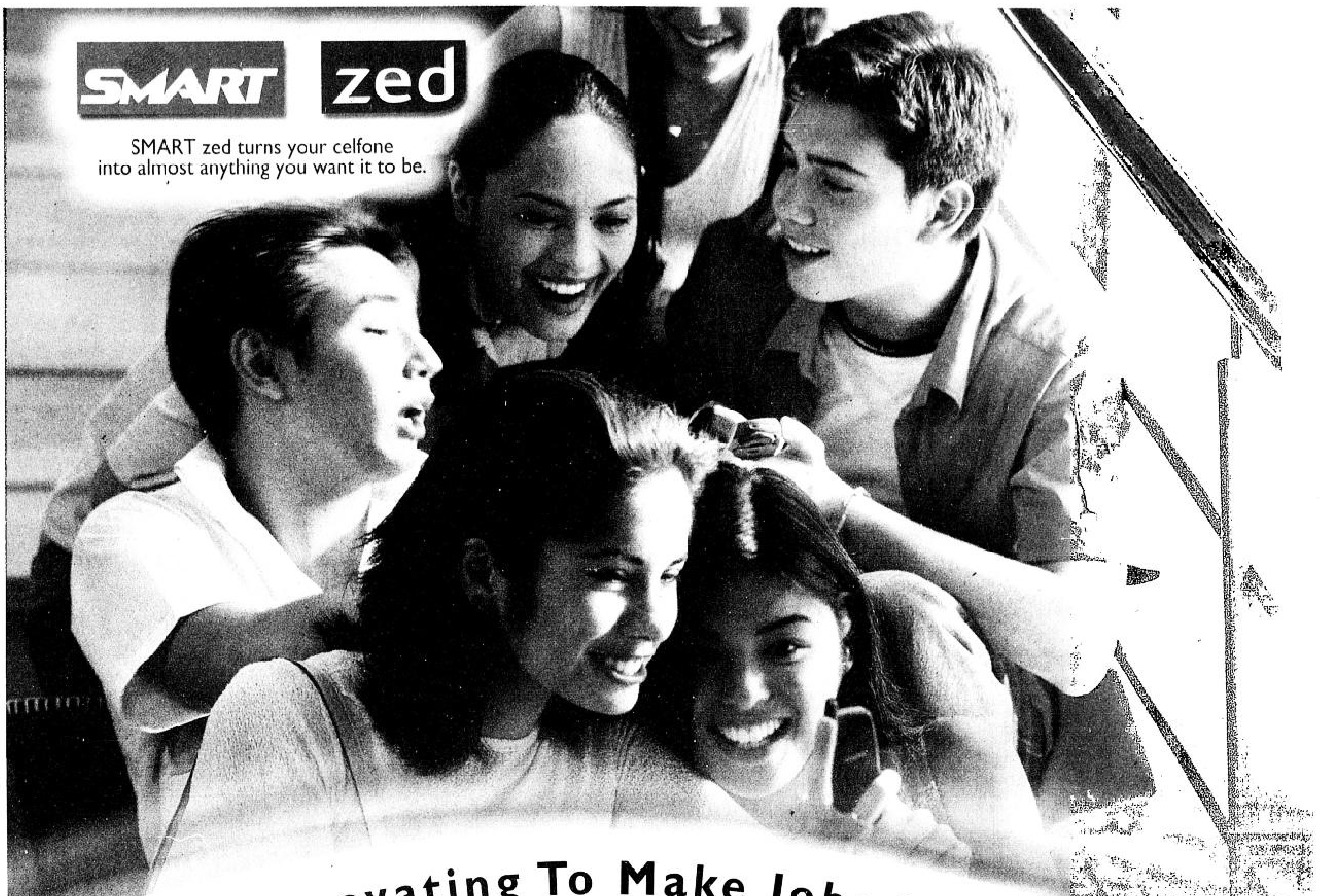
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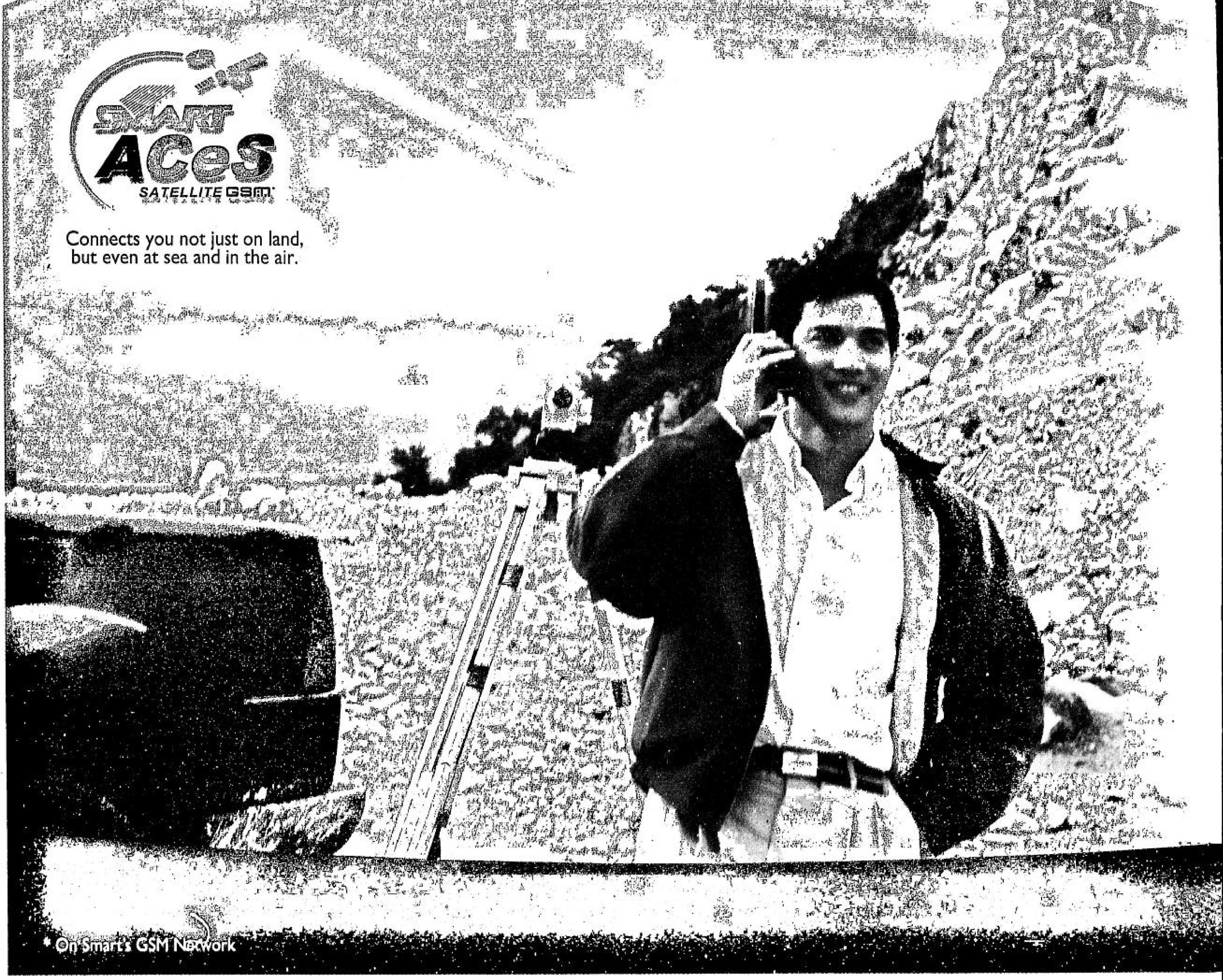
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India gov't blunders allowed millions to go hungry, says high court

NEW DELHI—India's Supreme Court has reprimanded the government for mismanaging food distribution in the country, where millions are threatened with starvation despite overflowing granaries.

The court's decision came after a petition from a human rights group, the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), which said nearly 208 million Indians have been affected by "chronic hunger."

While a bumper crop last year has produced 50 million tons of foodgrains—far in excess of the 20 million tons required to feed a nation of one billion people—six Indian states have been hit by severe drought: Maharshtra, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Bihar.

"The excess stocks, stored in sub-standard conditions, is exposed to rot, pest, theft and other losses. ... Some of it is not even fit for animal consumption and may end up being dumped in the sea," the PUCL said.

"It seems that the government of India would rather feed the fishes in the Arabian Sea than the people of India," the group said in its petition.

"There is so much grain in the reserves that there is a shortage of storage space. In some cases, there is barely a distance of 75 km between the location of these godowns and the places where starvation is rampant, people are malnourished, and cattle are dying," it added.

Quoting government figures, the PUCL stated that out of 360 million people living below the poverty line, there are more than 50 million people who are in danger of starvation.

"Already there are reports of starvation deaths. Over and above this, many people are facing starvation and will die soon if nothing is done immediately to alleviate their misery.

Based on its report, the PUCL asked the Supreme Court to direct the federal coalition to give its people their "right to life," which implies "the right to food, water, shelter, education, medical care and a decent environment. These are basic human rights known to any civilized society.".

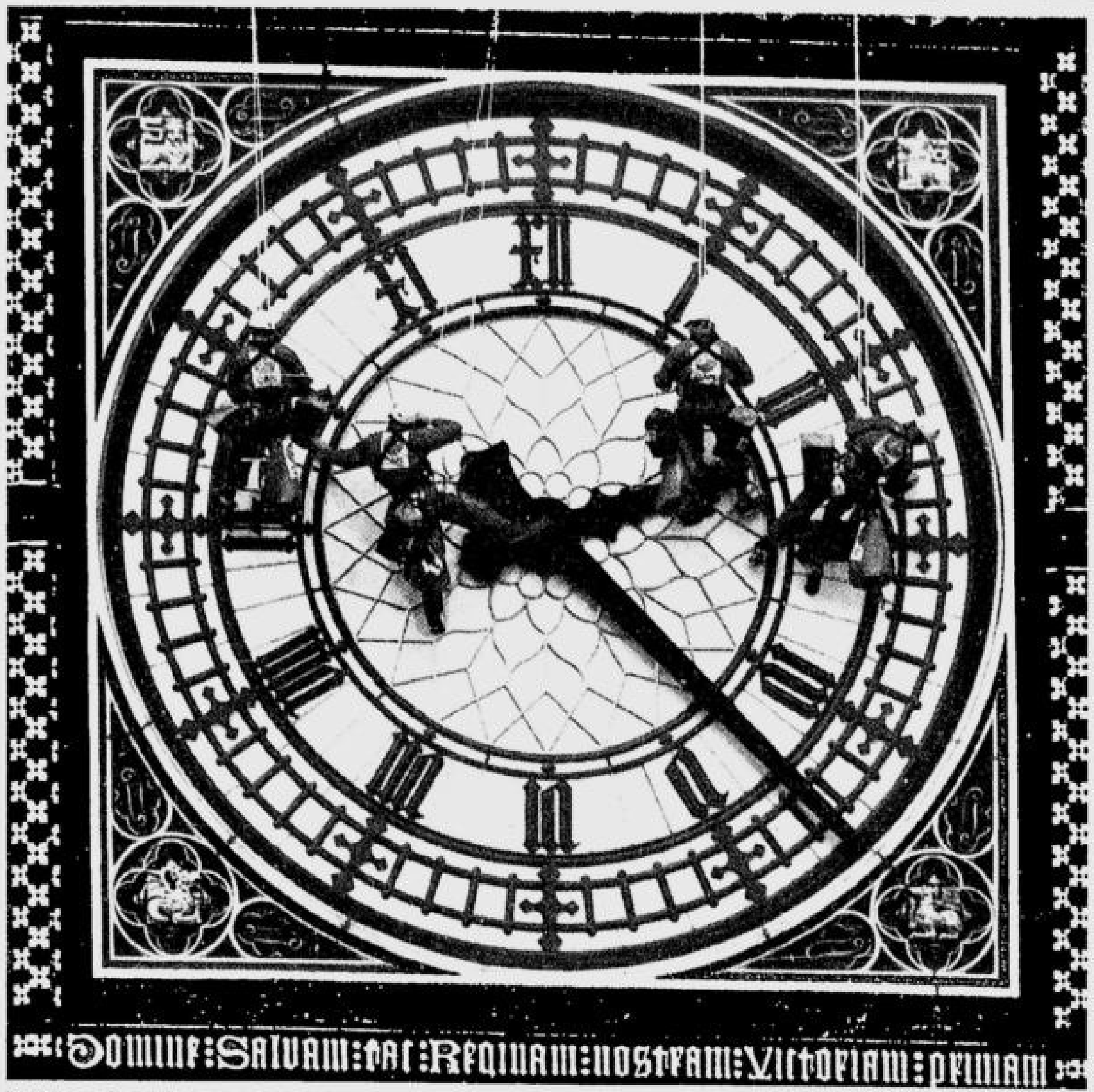
In its ruling Monday, the court said it was the "primary responsibility" of the federal and state governments to ensure that "foodgrains overflowing in godowns reached the starving people and (are) not wasted by being dumped in the sea or eaten by rats."

On Sept. 3, the court will pass interim directions to the federal and state governments to provide immediate relief to the affected people.

The human rights group also asked the court whether it was prudent to ask the poor and hungry to pay for government rations when unemployment is rampant in the drought-affected areas.

Even where the foodgrain is distributed free of cost, the amount disbursed is much less than the average intake of an adult, the PUCL petition said.

"There is massive unemployment, the people are becoming increasingly indebted to rapacious money-lenders, children are dropping out of school and cattle are either dying or being abandoned in large numbers because their owners cannot provide them with fodder," the PUCL said. *AFP*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Workers clean the face of London's famous Big Ben clock tower on top of the Houses of Parliament Aug. 20. The hands of the clock continue to move while the cleaning is done.

Brazil adopting civil code which downgrades machismo

BRASILIA, Brazil—For nearly a century, Brazilian law has granted men the right to obtain an annulment if they discover their bride is not a virgin. But not for much longer.

After more than two decades of debate, Brazil is revising its civil code, written when Latin America's culture of machismo was the rule.

Congress approved the new code last week. It faces a second vote, a formality, before going to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso for signing.

And while it makes significant advances from the civil code dating back to 1916, some say it doesn't go far enough.

The new code, set to go into effect by 2003, refers to "person" instead of "man" to ensure that women have rights, and gives divorced fathers a chance to win custody of their children.

But it doesn't address more complex issues such as the protection of human embryos, artificial insemination or the shared custody of children of separated parents—all currently under discussion in Congress.

"There was the fear that, addressing controversial questions, the text would never be approved," Paulo Lins e Silva, a specialist in family law, told the Rio de Janeiro daily O Globo.

As it is, it took 26 years to redress the laws that came straight out of the 19th century.

Although rarely invoked, the old civil code allowed a husband to annul his marriage if he discovered on his wedding night that his bride was not a virgin. That option was eliminated.

And in a country where many couples today do not wed, the code expands the concept of marriage to include a "stable union" and abolishes the expression "illegitimate" for offspring. Children born out of wedlock will be entitled to the same rights as others.

The new code allows woman to register an out-of-wedlock child under her own name, and drops a rule prohibiting those found to have committed adultery—a criminal offense in predominantly Roman Catholic Brazil—from remarrying.

"It's late, but welcome," federal congresswoman Zuliae Cobra, a veteran battler for women's rights, said by telephone from Sao Paulo. "The most important thing is that it establishes the equality of men and women in marriage. Women never had authority—it was men who had rights, period."

Men get added rights, too. In case of separation or divorce, the father will have equal rights to the custody of children, a right automatically granted to the mother under the old code. A judge is to award custody to the parent that offers the "best conditions," which the code does not define.

A divorced man also can file for alimony from his former wife if she makes more money and he is unable to work. *AP*

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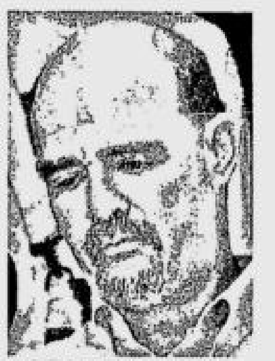
'Most wanted' US pedophile arrested


ROSSER

BANGKOK—An American pedophile listed among the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's 10 "most wanted" fugitives was arrested yesterday in the Thai capital, officials said.

Thai police working with FBI officers collared 48-year-old pianist Eric Franklin Rosser who is charged with producing and possessing child pornography and distributing it to the United States.

After his arrest Rosser was paraded in handcuffs in front of the media, and photographed sitting behind a desk stacked with evidence including books and videotapes.

The native of Syracuse, New York, said nothing but looked downcast during the press conference where he was dressed in a neatly pressed white shirt, and sported a goatee with his hair cut short around a balding pate.

Rosser, a professional musician who once played keyboards with US rock singer John Mellencamp, was arrested in February last year but absconded after being released on bail of $22,250.

The self-confessed pedophile is accused of being the mastermind behind a child pornography ring based in Bangkok, where he operated a piano school for well-to-do children and played in the city's top hotels.

Thai police said that after fleeing Thailand Rosser took refuge in many European countries including the Netherlands, Britain and France before returning to Thailand on a fake passport. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US backs Israel position at UN Council

UNITED NATIONS—The United States, siding with Israel, made clear Monday it would not support Arab efforts to involve the UN Security Council in the Mideast crisis. Without backing from the United States—a veto-wielding member of the council—it was unlikely that a draft resolution circulated by the Palestinians last week would go for a vote in the council. The Palestinian draft, backed by Arab and Muslim states, calls for an end to the Israeli takeover of Orient House—the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in east Jerusalem—an immediate cessation of violence, and the creation of a "monitoring mechanism," which Israel opposes. *AP*

Sri Lanka rebs' attack on cops kills 23

COLOMBO—Tamil Tiger rebels overran a police station in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday in an attack that left 23 people dead and 27 wounded, defense officials said. The military retaliated with intensified air strikes after the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the pre-dawn assault against the Central Camp station in the eastern Ampara district. *AFP*

Hope fades for trapped Ukrainian miners

DONETSK, Ukraine—Hope faded on Monday for 10 miners believed to be trapped behind a raging fire deep underground in a Ukrainian coal mine. A methane and coal-dust explosion killed at least 36 men and injured 43 when it ripped through a shaft in the Zasyadko mine near the center of the eastern city of Donetsk on Sunday, the latest in a long line of mining tragedies in Ukraine. "We can't continue to work down there until the fire has been localized," said Serhiy Smolanov, head of the rescue team. "At best it will take two days to isolate the fire." He said the chances of rescuing 10 men who remained unaccounted for were practically nil, dashing the hopes of distraught relatives gathered at the entrance to the mine. *Reuters*

French is 'precarious' in N. America

MONTREAL—French remains a "precarious language" in North America but will be shored up in the Canadian province of Quebec with the introduction of a true "Quebec citizenship," a provincial commission reported Monday. The 300-page report, produced by the language commission headed by former labor leader Gerald Larose, contains 150 recommendations. "The French living in America will always be in danger," Larose said, noting French speakers represented only two percent of the regional population. Confronted by the dwindling number of French speakers, the commission recommended introducing a separate Quebec citizenship, which will exist alongside Canadian citizenship. *AFP*

KATOTOHANAN

PREVENTING A NARCO-FUTURE

MATAUHAN NA TAYO!

A STATEMENT FROM

SAMAHAN PARA SA KATOTOHANAN AT KINABUKASAN

THE DANGERS OF NARCO-POLITICS AND THE DOMINANT INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZED CRIME ON OUR INSTITUTIONS ARE THE MOST SERIOUS THREATS TO THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

We salute Col. Victor Corpus for his courage in bringing these threats to national security and development to the attention of our government and citizenry. We believe in his integrity, his dedication to our country, and his concern for the welfare of our people.

We likewise salute the witnesses who have come out of the darkness of criminal life into the light of truth and with the desire to right the wrong they had taken part in. At the risk of their own and their families' lives and future, they chose to return to the path of truth and justice. We support them and stand solidly behind them in the quest for truth and justice.

We are encouraged by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement of confidence in Col. Corpus and we support her stand to resist all pressures to relieve the colonel from his position as ISAFP chief, a job he has discharged effectively with only the common good in mind.

We call on all government institutions and agencies to help ferret out the truth in the case being raised against Sen. Panfilo Lacson on account of his alleged involvement in drug-trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, summary executions, smuggling and money-laundering. We call for a fair, impartial and transparent investigation and trial that will arrive at the truth and mete out justice to the victims of these alleged crimes, as well as to Sen. Lacson.

We express our outrage and utter dismay at the conduct of some of the senators in the hearing last Friday, 17 August. The inquisitorial and heavy-handed tactics employed by some of the senators towards the invited witnesses were truly abominable..

We condemn the legally questionable detention of Mr. Angelo 'Ador' Mawanay and the humiliating and indecent treatment given him. While his allegations need to be verified and substantiated by material evidence, he is NOT the subject of investigation and does not deserve the harsh treatment he received. Not getting the desired testimony does not give the Senate the right to detain a witness, unless of course the real intention is to inhibit, harass and intimidate future witnesses.

Finally, we call on all citizens to vigilantly monitor the developments in this raging issue. Without delay, Col. Corpus' serious allegations against Sen. Lacson must be investigated and brought to trial before the proper and impartial body or forum.

We call on all, especially the media, to actively ensure that this ongoing controversy is not reduced to a battle of personalities – Corpus vs. Lacson, pro-Corpus vs. pro-Lacson. This controversy goes beyond Lacson or Corpus.

The real issue is the serious threat posed by narco-politics and organized crime on our government institutions and our society as a whole.

Let us then not cloud or trivialize this serious threat to the future of our people and country. For the sake of our youth, let us be selfless and faithful to the truth.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 24°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 27°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/22/01

ROUNDUP

Victim threatened

SAN PABLO CITY—The Commission on Human Rights employee who filed a sexual harassment case against the CHR regional director fears for her life and those of her two daughters. Barbara Ramos (not her real name) said she learned that someone close to her former superior, CHR Southern Tagalog director Ferdinand Quintos, whom she accused of sexually harassing her, had been issuing threats that her family would be harmed if the CHR finds the director guilty. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Quezon execs vs MWSS

LUCENA CITY—Quezon board member Eladio Pasamba urged Gov. Wilfredo Enverga to sue the Metropolitan Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System to compel it and the firm that succeeded it to pay taxes due the province for using water from the Umiray River. In a privilege speech before the board's regular session last week, Pasamba said the MWSS has informed the local government of General Nakar, "that it cannot pay the royalty sought by Quezon province." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 civilians dead in encounter

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Five persons, including a two-year-old-boy and his grandfather, were killed during a six-hour firefight on Monday between soldiers and suspected members of the New People's Army in Barangay Ampongol, Sogod town, some 65 kilometers north of here.

Killed in the crossfire were Ismael Collamat, 61, and his grandson, Edcel, who were pounding corn in a neighbor's house.

The boy, who would have turned three in October, refused to leave his grandfather when a neighbor tried to rescue him.

The third fatality, an unidentified male and suspected to be a rebel, suffered from a broken skull. Pedro Esnardo, village chief of Ampongol, said the unidentified fatality was not a resident of his barangay.

The two slain soldiers were identified by the Visayas Command (Viscom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as Cpl. Jose Parales, 27, of Masbate, and Cpl. Joseph Peria, 28, of Negros Occidental.

Peralas suffered gunshot wounds in the head, left shoulder and armpit. Peria was hit in the buttocks, hands and chest.

Wounded was S/Sgt. Antonio Salinas, 34, and a native of Albay. He was the leader of the seven-man team belonging to the 19th Scout Ranger Company of Task Force Cebu that figured in the encounter.

Salinas is now recuperating in a hospital inside Camp Lapulapu, the headquarters of the Viscom based in Cebu City.

The soldiers later recovered one M-14 Armalite rifle and a civilian bag from the site of the encounter.

It was the third encounter between soldiers and rebels in Sogod since 1990. In April last year, a truckload of suspected rebels ransacked the Sogod town hall and its police station. The rebels left with some firearms and office equipment.

Maj. Michael Manquiquis, the Viscom spokesperson, said Salinas and his men were conducting patrol operations in Sitio Bongyas, Barangay Ampongol, about 9 a.m. on Monday when they chanced upon a group of about 40 suspected rebels.

He said the soldiers were at first hesitant to fire their guns because the rebels were in fatigues.

The two civilians were hit at the start of the exchange of gunfire. Ismael was hit in the stomach and neck. His grandson, who was beside him, suffered bullet wounds in the stomach and legs.

Ismael was pounding corn in the house of Mariano Arnejo, 74, which was near the site of the encounter.

Arnejo said he immediately checked on the Collamats when he heard bursts of gunfire and found Ismael bleeding.

He said he tried to get the boy but Edcel refused to leave his grandfather. He then left the boy and joined his family who was hiding in the cornfield.

Edcel was later found dead with his grandfather. Ismael's wife, Guillerma, said the boy was close to his grandfather whom Edcel looked up to like a father.

The boy's mother is a single parent and is working in a restaurant in Mandaue City.

The firefight between the soldiers and the rebels lasted for about six hours, or from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., forcing at least 30 families in Sitio Bongayas to evacuate for fear that they might be caught in the crossfire.

Some of the evacuees stayed with their relatives at the town proper, about seven kilometers away from the village. The others were housed at the Municipal Hall.

As of yesterday, Esnardo said not one of the residents was allowed to go back to their respective houses as the soldiers were still conducting pursuit operations against the rebels.

Fighting between government soldiers and communist guerrillas continue despite ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine government and self-exiled leaders of the National Democratic Front.

Used clothes stores tagged 'fire traps'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Local fire officials alerted the city government on threats posed by more than 100 *wagwag* (bargain or used clothing) houses that they described as "fire traps."

Senior Insp. Constantine Supanga, Baguio fire marshal, said the *wagwag* or *ukay-ukay* industry is run as low-interest investments and most *wagwag* houses have been remiss in providing safeguards to their customers, composed mostly of tourists.

"I also buy (from *wagwag* houses) and I already realized that many of these establishments are too cramped, have poor storage facilities, and are located in buildings that have even poorer fire safety precautions. We are looking at hundreds of (*wagwag* houses) catering to tourists, which are all highly combustible," Supanga said in Filipino.

A typical *wagwag* house today is cramped in about 11 square meters, but filled to the ceiling with stacks of clothing. The *balikbayan* boxes, where the garments were stored as they were shipped here from Hong Kong, are usually piled up in a corner.

"A single customer, with a lighted cigarette, can start a fire and the resulting blaze will not be controlled. Most of these *wagwag* houses are lined together in buildings that already have no good air circulation, and no fire exits," Supanga explained.

At least a *wagwag* house can be found in a street corner or along a barangay road, but there are more *wagwag* houses in downtown Baguio and its side streets.

Mayor Bernardo Vergara described the *wagwag* industry as a public asset and declared Baguio as the country's "*wagwag* capital."

Supanga said he has submitted his evaluations to Vergara.

"I had the report ready when I assumed office. It was the same substance of a July 31 report, but it was substantiated early this month when Mayor Vergara instructed city officials to inspect these establishments," he said.

9 missing as vessel capsizes

LUCENA CITY—At least six crew members of a light cargo sea vessel were rescued but nine were still reported missing after it capsized near Semara Island in seas off Marinduque province on Monday evening.

A report from the Disaster Response Office of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Guillermo Nakar, this city, said that the LCT Barangay, a light cargo sea vessel owned by the Majestic Shipping Lines, sank after being battered by big waves and strong currents around 9 p.m. Monday.

Col. Danilo Fabian, Solcom spokesperson, said Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Solcom commanding general, immediately dispatched to the area an AFP Solcom rescue team led by a certain Col. Uloquino to organize search and rescue operations.

He said Torrijos town Mayor Tomas Pizzaro led civilian volunteers who rescued the six crew members early morning yesterday.

"Mayor Pizzaro immediately contacted the Solcom for the rescue of the missing crew because strong waves prevented them from launching another rescue attempt," Fabian said.

The rescued crewmen were identified as Sancho Sanchez, chief mate; Rodelio Montio, 2nd mate; Conrado Manalang, Arnulfo Guanga, Aron Bidunar and Sotero Naraga Jr. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Cordillera fruits rot as a result of bad roads

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Fuji and Washington apples abound in this city's public market, thanks to trade liberalization. But bananas, *pomelo* or grapefruit, pineapples and other fruits from remote Cordillera towns cannot be marketed here or to Metro Manila simply because these cannot be transported.

"It is unfortunate that plenty of our farm crops are left to rot in the farms because of poor roads or no road at all," said Roger Sacyaten, Mt. Province provincial agriculture and fisheries council (PAFC) chair.

Sacyaten cited Paracelis, a remote upland town in eastern Mt. Province, which abounds with *pomelo*, bananas, coffee, yam, *ube* and other root crops that residents cannot consume.

"These crops are harvested by birds and bats or they just fall to the ground and rot," he said.

The reason, he said, is that even a four-wheel drive vehicle will have a tough time trekking the muddy road to Paracelis.

The neighboring towns of Natonin and Barlig suffer the same fate as Paracelis, said Sacyaten.

These Mt. Province towns with none or poor roads are not alone.

The Inquirer recently visited Conner, Apayao, and villagers there had the same woes.

The ill-maintained, muddy 33-kilometer provincial road from Pinukpuk (Kalinga) town to the village of Banban in Conner, for example, continues to bar villagers from marketing their bananas, papayas, pineapples, coffee, *ube*, cassava and other crops.

An efficient road system, officials said, will motivate the villagers of Banban and neighboring Barangays Daga and Puguin to become entrepreneurs, too, if they are given the opportunity to market their surplus produce.

Not lacking in industry and hard work, many residents of the three villages are migrants from Benguet who moved to Apayao after they were displaced by the construction of the Ambuklao and Binga dams in the 1950s and 1960s.

Farmers and residents of Kibungan, Benguet, also lament the poor state of a long stretch of the 67-kilometer Baguio-Kibungan national road, which remains vulnerable to landslides and road cuts during strong typhoons.

Kibungan was isolated after a bailey bridge in Ca-ew village in neighboring Kapangan town was washed down when the river below the bridge swelled at the height of typhoon "Feria" in July.

An emerging top producer of *sayote*, Kibungan has many farmers who went bankrupt, as they could not market their produce after they were isolated.

But hope is not lost on these Cordillera folk who suffered the most from both natural disasters and sheer government neglect. They have not lost their sense of creativity and innovation.

In Kibungan, for example, villagers revived their age-old *alluyon* (self-help cooperative labor or *bayanihan* system) by bringing out their shovels and taking turns in clearing landslides and erecting riprap walls to remedy road cuts.

In Apayao, farmers use carabao-drawn sleds in transporting bananas and other farm produce to the nearest serviceable road.

In Paracelis, villagers resort to heavy-duty vehicles, which have motorized pulley systems that motorists fasten to big tree trunks while climbing a muddy road.

Even with their self-help remedies, villagers deserve government support such as "post-harvest facilities," which include roads, agriculture officials admit.

Local officials must program infrastructure projects that support agriculture, said Sacyaten as he deplored some local officials who build infrastructures such as waiting sheds and roads that don't lead to farms or villages.

Calamity fund shortfall feared

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The government's calamity fund this year is in danger of being depleted if more typhoons as strong as "Feria" visit the country, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said.

"If we are going to have this type of tropical depression ("Jolina"), we would survive. If we are going to have "Feria"-type (typhoons) or even stronger, we would be in a critical stage," Soliman said in reply to a question on the sufficiency of the government's remaining calamity fund.

Feria's heavy rains in July triggered floods and landslides that killed more than 100 people in Northern Luzon.

She said the Department of Social Welfare and Development has still about P38 million for relief assistance.

"It's going to last us until December… I can still access… the calamity fund that is with the President," Soliman said after assisting President Macapagal-Arroyo in distributing food packs to Jolina's flood victims here on Saturday.

The DSWD gets 25 percent of the calamity fund, which it passes on to local governments. Another 25 percent goes to the Department of Public Works and Highways. The rest, amounting to P300 million, is with the Office of the President.

A P1-billion calamity fund was proposed under the 2002 budget, Soliman said.

Congress, according to her, had indicated support for an increase in the fund.

The DSWD's fund had been complemented by the services of nongovernment organizations.

In the case of the eruptions of Mayon Volcano recently, Soliman said nongovernment organizations "came in very strongly in the disaster response and relief work."

Government workers, in particular those in the DSWD, would make the difference in the tasks of disaster response, she said.

"I see many gems in government, people who are committed. It's (the government) that is not perfect but there are more energy and commitment in government for public service than I understood before," she said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

'People's safety is our main concern'

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Pampanga

VIEWED from 4,200 feet above sea level, the high land portions of Botolan, Zambales, are a picture of mountains scarred and flattened by volcanic debris, of four rivers merging and bulging with lahar, and of homes and farms revived in the middle of this dangerous landscape.

Thatched huts stand on the foothills where lahar-choked rivers snake. Fields are planted to rice and corn, fed by rains for irrigation. Carabaos and goats nibble on grass that grows on land spared by lahar.

Typical of the Philippine countryside, barrio folk burn their trash, the smoke signaling that people indeed now live on what was deemed no man's land 10 years ago.

At the town proper, Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in June 1991 had left no signs of the disaster.

The lowland areas of Botolan are bustling with life.

Shocking

Bemusing and shocking. These were the reactions of Eduardo Bautista and Adriano Doble, Department of Public Works and Highways engineers, to the presence and activities of settlers along the risky paths.

Bautista and Doble are supervising the Pinatubo canal project that will drain water from the volcano's crater lake to prevent during severe weather an overflow and breakout that will cause lahar rampage and flood in 12 Botolan villages.

The artificial trench—five meters high, five meters wide and 100 meters long—will be carved from the Maraunot notch, the lowest rim of the crater where 210 million cubic meters of water have accumulated since Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

The DPWH and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology plan to release water at a slow rate of 15 million cu. m. at daytime.

This is the first time in the Philippines that a canal will be built on a volcano to save upland settlers, including those in the town proper, 40 km from Pinatubo, from lahar and floodwater avalanches, according to Phivolcs Director Raymundo Punongbayan.

Crucial task

Bautista and Doble described their task as crucial to the safety of some 40,000 residents, especially those in Sitios Ugek, Tiple, Batya, Bangcal and Bunaklale in Barangay Burgos.

At least 67 families from Burgos have been evacuated to the Baquilan resettlement site since Aug. 10, according to Botolan Mayor Roger Yap.

Apparently, the rest have preferred to remain in their villages although Gov. Vicente Magsaysay has ordered an evacuation to higher ground.

Bautista and Doble expressed confidence that the engineering intervention of the DPWH and the Phivolcs would assure the safety of the upland villages during the estimated 22-day construction period up the crater.

Layer by layer, the Maraunot notch will be cleared of soft volcanic debris.

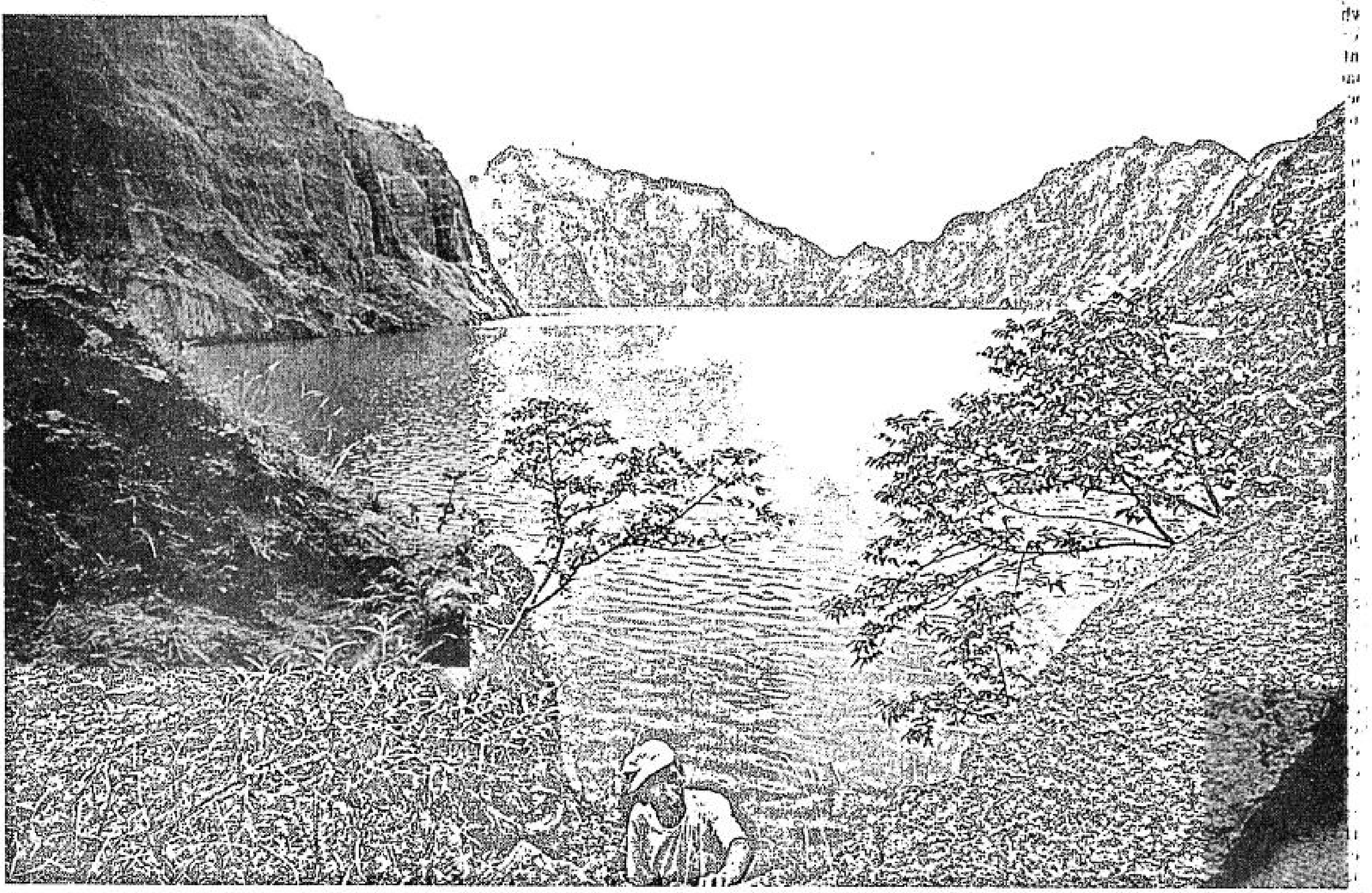
On the eighth layer, where the scraped ground is two meters from the rim, Bautista said the DPWH would mount the canal by cementing that portion down to 20 meters below the notch.

This scheme will secure the workers from cascading water that may escape during heavy rains, he said.

The work then shifts to constructing the canal from below, moving upward until the upper and lower sections of the canal meet.

The scheduled release of water will be relayed from the crater through the villages, Bautista said.

"Ten years after Pinatubo erupted, we are still dealing with risks. Then we built dikes in lahar channels. Now, it's a canal we're building on top of the volcano. This work is amazing. And the safety of the people is our main concern," he said.


MT. PINATUBO crater lake.

For whom the Kiangan gongs toll

BY FRANK CIMATU
Ifugao

IF you meet 76-year-old Parompon Bahay in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, wish the old man good tidings and long life, and that the wind will always be on his back. Wish no harm against him because Bahay is the last master of the *alim* way of chanting.

Since elementary, we have learned of the Ifugao's *hudhud* (epic) and *alim* (a ritual chant), but do we really know what they are?

In Banaue, there may be several short *alim* pieces, while in Kiangan, Asipulo and Lagawe, there is only one—the *alim* of Ummangal and Bugan. But this particular *alim*, as recited by Bahay, can start from evening and end non-stop until mid-morning the next day.

Bahay is usually fetched from his house in Bambang and enticed to recite the *alim*.

When Bahay dies, there will be no one to recite the *alim* anymore, said Manuel Dulawan, project coordinator of the Ifugao School of Living Traditions in Kiangan.

Ritual chant

No amount of teaching will return it, Dulawan said, because *alim* is a ritual chant and only designated performers can perform it.

Seventy-year-old Amado Dincog performs the *baltung*, another ritual chant, but unlike Bahay, he wanted to teach his fellow Kiangans the rudiments of chanting *baltung* being an instructor of ISLT.

The *baltung* is usually recited during prestige rites, or death or exhumation of a rich person or the *kadangyan*.

Another ISLT instructor is 75-year-old Angelina Dumayahon, a *monhaw-e* or leader of the *hudhud* way of chanting. She has been a *monhaw-e* since she was 20 and she, too, is willing to pass on her knowledge to other Kiangan women.

Leading the *hudhud* is a daunting task. The *hudhud* sometimes goes on for three days and a *monhaw-e* should know the 80 or so episodes that comprise the epic.

And particular *hudhud* pieces are personalized depending on the audience. If the *hudhud* is performed during a funeral, the lineage and the life of the dead is incorporated in the *hudhud*.

Reciting the *hudhud* is one way of driving away death, Dumayahon said.

In a peculiar life-death connection, the *hudhud* is also chanted during harvest as a way of assuring fertility to the fields.

The last form of ritual chanting among the Kiangan is the *taydok*, which is a chant between two *mumbaki* or native priests. The *taydok* includes the *uyauy*, *balihong* or *hagabi*, according to Dulawan, and the chanting can go for an hour.

Dulawan got Dincog and Dimayahon as well as himself and his wife Filomena as the core teachers of the ISLT to restore the cultural grandeur that was Kiangan.

The school has been playing on Dulawan's mind ever since he retired as division chief of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in Baguio City.

In 1996, he broached the idea to the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, but the proposal fell on deaf ears.

Dulawan, 67, however, found a kindred spirit in then Kiangan Mayor Teodoro Baguilat Jr. Together, they again approached the NCCA and got the funding they needed.

Outside influence

Baguilat was elected Ifugao governor on May 14, but in his place was Mayor Lucio Ayahao, who is also fully supportive of the idea.

The three decided to open the classes on Aug. 18 with 32 students, whose ages range from 20 to 45 years. The students will attend six months of lessons every weekend.

The courses to be offered are *hudhud* chanting, *baltung* chanting, myth narrating, story narrating, folk singing, gong playing and dancing, loom weaving and rice wine brewing.

"We are not teaching rituals, by the way. Ritual chants can be performed without performing a *baki* or rite," Dulawan said.

Ayahao said the school would help offset the outside influence that invaded the culture of the Kiangan.

"The Spanish and American influences invaded our customs and traditions and we should revive them," he said.

Baguilat said people are raising their eyebrows when he prioritized culture and the arts in his administration.

"Why pick culture along with infrastructure (in your priorities), they asked me. We can lose a bridge or a road and the damage would be short-term. But when you lose your culture, you lose your identity as a people," Baguilat said.

Romeo de la Cruz, head of the NCCA sub-commission on cultural traditions, said the strong support of the local government was a crucial factor in the success of the school.

He said the Kiangan people are fiercely protective of their culture. They were the ones who started the *gotad* (cultural festival) that sought to revitalize their distinct arts and culture.

Since Kiangan started the *gotad* in 1994, other Ifugao towns like Mayoyao and Lamut have been holding their own *gotad*.

De la Cruz said he hoped the school will be copied in other Cordillera places.

"We hope to learn from the success of this first class," he said. "May the sounds of the gongs in Kiangan radiate in other places in Ifugao. May the sounds of the gongs in Kiangan radiate to other cultures in the Cordillera and revive the glory days of Cordillera culture," he said.

MANUEL Dulawan, project coordinator of the Ifugao School of Living Traditions, and Ifugao children perform a tribal dance. The school, which seeks to preserve Ifugao culture, was launched Aug. 11 in Kiangan town. BEN MOSES EBREO

The ghost of Mr. White

BY RUSSELL ARADOR
Tarlac

LOCAL historian Lino Dizon was 7 years old when he first heard about the ghost of "Mr. White."

Nobody knew who Mr. White was, he said, except that he might have been either a Spaniard or an American soldier tortured and killed by members of the Japanese Army during World War II.

Hair-raising stories about the ghost particularly told of sightings in the garden house and home economics building of the Concepcion North Central School in Concepcion town, where Dizon was an elementary school pupil in the 1960s.

But far from scaring him, the story of Mr. White's restless spirit piqued his curiosity—and kicked off 20 years of an on-and-off investigation into the true identity of the much-talked-about poltergeist.

Search

The search would not end in vain.

On Aug. 17, the Tarlac State University, the United States Embassy and the Thomasites centennial project unveiled the "Mr. White Memorial."

Placed at the Pi Omicron Park inside the TSU's main campus on Romulo Boulevard in Tarlac City, the historical marker partly reads:

"In commemmoration (of White) and the pioneering Filipino and American teachers, this marker is being placed by the people of Tarlac on Aug. 17, exactly 88 years after (White's) untimely death and during the centennial of the arrival of the Thomasites and the planning of the roots of public education in the province and the country."

The marker is placed on the spot where the "original provincial secondary building," the first in the Philippines, was constructed.

As it turned out, Mr. White was Frank Russell White, the first Thomasite teacher in Tarlac.

FRANK Russell White, a Thomasite assigned to Tarlac.

In 1901, more than 500 "patriotic" American volunteers sailed from San Francisco to the Philippines aboard a United States Army transport named Thomas to "establish a modern public school system which was to have far-reaching effects on the Filipino way of life."

Later known as the Thomasites, these American teachers, whose number grew to 1,074 in 1902, "fanned out to the provinces to teach and begin the experiment of preparing the Filipinos for nationhood."

Dr. Michael Anderson, US Embassy public affairs officer, said White arrived in the Philippines about three months ahead of the other Thomasites.

He said White "instilled respect for the dignity of labor by instituting vocational education in the Philippine school system."

Indelible mark

"The fact that you remember a Mr. White 100 years later is proof that the Thomasites have left an indelible mark in your life," he said.

Dizon, who is nearly finished writing a book about White and the other Thomasites assigned to Tarlac, said White established in Tarlac the country's first public secondary school, which is now known as the Tarlac National High School.

The TNHS counts among its graduates Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, a former president of the United Nations General Assembly and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in journalism.

Also, White was the first schools division superintendent in Tarlac and the fourth director of education in the Philippines during the American period, Dizon explained.

White was born to a Scottish family in Millburn, Illinois, on June 8, 1875. In 1900, he received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago.

Before he signed up for the mission in the Philippines, he worked for a charitable institution in Chicago.

He was one of 11 Thomasites assigned to Tarlac in 1901. The others were Hampton Butler (Capas), L.D. Baun (Moncada), Henrietta Albright (Tarlac), L.H. Bonelli Jr. (Concepcion), S.A. Campbell (Victoria), Fannie McGee (Tarlac), O.S. Reimold (Tarlac), Nina F. Sargeant (Paniqui), Lucinda Ansbro (Tarlac) and C.V. Valentine (Gerona).

White died in 1913. He was 35.

Former American Governor General W. Cameron Forbes said White "gave his life to the cause for he died . . . undoubtedly as a result, of his labors."

And with the publication of Dizon's book "Mr. White: A Thomasite History of Tarlac Province (1901-1913)," the ghost of Mr. White will finally rest in peace.

Reyes stands by Corpus

(From page A1)

Under questioning, Reyes disclosed that he had phoned Corpus at the height of media reports on Lacson's alleged illegal activities.

To Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's question of whether Corpus had been sanctioned for lapses in the rules governing raw intelligence reports, Reyes said: "I had called him up and told him to be sure of what (he was) doing and (to) keep it a professional thing."

The senators who led the grilling of Reyes said they found him to be either evasive or generally unaware about what was happening in his office.

'Lacson said he was also not satisfied with the way Reyes answered the questions. He has asked that he be given the chance to throw the first question next week.

Sen. John Osmena warned that he would ask his own questions when the finance committee, which he heads, buckled down to studying the budget of the Department of National Defense.

"I will not ask the questions here. I will reserve (these) for the budget hearings," Osmena said after the Question Hour was adjourned.

'He said he would effect a slash in the department's P60-million intelligence budget because, he pointed out, Reyes could barely manage those funds.

"He does not have a hold on his department. You're entrusted with funds and you say you don't know how they are spent?" Osmena said, adding that Reyes was giving the senators the "runaround."

Pimentel said Reyes' purported ignorance of operations under his office could be due to the fact that he did not have as much access to the Isafp as President Macapagal-Arroyo did.

"He may be trying to pass on responsibility to the President, from how I see it," Pimentel said when asked whether Reyes could be trying to cover up for somebody.

Pimentel said this was shown by the intelligence-gathering mission to the United States, which was funded by Malacanang.

"For all I know, he probably really did not know. It's just a statement of fact that he did not know. He was trying to be polite about it," Pimentel said.

The mission conducted by a joint military-police team was to gather information on Lacson's alleged bank accounts abroad.

Rap on the knuckles

During the Question Hour, Sen. Edgardo Angara told Reyes that he found the defense chief's admonition to Corpus a mere "rap on the knuckles."

Reyes responded that he found Corpus a "responsible enough officer."

He said that as defense chief, he was engaged with the strategic level or the setting of policies, while Corpus was more involved with the tactical side or the implementation of these policies.

"As secretary of national defense, I do not micromanage him," Reyes said.

Reyes also admitted that Corpus' statements on Lacson's alleged bank accounts were the colonel's own statements that had no clearance from his superiors.

Asked by Pimentel whether this was in violation of regulations, Reyes answered in the affirmative.

Still, while he said that the general policy of the AFP was that classified documents should not be leaked outside the defense department, he said Corpus was "grounded enough on matters of classification."

THE UNFLAPPABLE object of interrogation, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, during the Question Hour at the Senate. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"He knows how to classify documents. I give the Isafp chief enough latitude to determine the classification," Reyes said.

7 points

The prepared questions that were asked of Reyes in the Question Hour were limited to seven points:

- Why Stephen Villaflor, the aide of Sen. Robert Barbers who was mistaken as Lacson's friend Kim Wong, was under surveillance.
- Whether there was any derogatory report against Villaflor.
- What authority was invoked for Villaflor's surveillance.
- Whether government funds were used for the surveillance of senators.
- Government intelligence funds.
- The functions of the Isafp chief.
- Why Corpus was allowed to disclose intelligence information.

Explaining the fiasco concerning Villaflor, Reyes said Barbers' aide was never under military surveillance and that there was no derogatory report on him.

Quoting what was relayed to him by the Isafp, Reyes said its agents had been informed that Wong was at the Seafood Wharf and that they had mistaken Villaflor for the alleged drug lord.

He said the agents, armed only with a general description of Wong, took Villaflor's picture.

It was this picture that Corpus presented to the media. He has since apologized for the mistake.

When asked by Sen. Juan Flavier to explain how the agents were able to take Villaflor's picture at the restaurant when the senator's aide claimed that he had never been there, Reyes said this was what Isafp agents had told him.

Reyes also explained the circumstances of how alleged ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay came under the protective custody of the Isafp.

He said Mawanay had been referred to the Isafp by civil-society groups after Mawanay made his revelations against Lacson to broadcast journalist Arnold Clavio.

Reyes likewise denied that the government was Mawanay's handler. "Mawanay is not an agent of the Isafp. We can't control what he has said or will say. He is not being handled by anyone," Reyes said.

No knowledge

Answering a question from Angara, Reyes said he had no knowledge of any order from Malacanang to target political personalities.

Asked by Angara why Corpus was leaking raw information, Reyes said that in the course of his phone conversation with the Isafp chief, Corpus expressed confidence in what he was doing and said his investigation of Lacson was "nothing personal."

Reyes also took pains to explain that being defense chief and holding a political position, he did not intervene in military intelligence operations.

"I am a political personality. We want AFP intelligence to stay professional," he said, adding that it would be "bad" for him to instruct the Isafp what and what not to do.

Asked by Angara if he found it "strange" that Inquirer reporter Christine Herrera was part of the intelligence team that traveled to the United States to investigate Lacson's bank accounts, Reyes could only say that to his knowledge, Herrera was "not part of the team."

"I don't know for what purpose she was there, but she was not part of the mission," he said.

Due to time constraints, only Pimentel, Flavier and Angara were able to question Reyes after he answered the seven questions prepared beforehand.

Dissatisfaction

Pimentel said there were many "gaps" in Reyes' testimony, "which leaves much of us dissatisfied."

"Secretary Reyes was not forthright in answering questions, especially in the matter of his control and supervision over the actuations of Colonel Corpus," Pimentel said.

He said the senators would ask Reyes "more detailed questions" on Aug. 30, and would try to "establish whether he was purposely being evasive," and take disciplinary action if necessary.

Reyes, however, said he was of the impression that the senators were satisfied with his answers.

He also said he was well aware of what was happening in his office.

"Within the responsibility of my office, I know what's happening," he said. "It's only the tactical level that I'd rather not go into because I have more important and more strategic matters to attend to."

He added: "I'd like to ensure that my fingers are on the pulse."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he did not find Reyes "evasive."

"No, no, no. In fact, he's been answering the questions," Drilon said in reaction to the observation of opposition senators.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said they had asked Reyes to bring Corpus and other resource persons to the next hearing since the questions seemed to be focused on them.

Priest says sorry for Ador 'escape'

(From page A1)

vice of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help Mawanay escape.

Caluag said it was he who had arranged Mawanay's appointment with the Cardinal upon the request of Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just) convenor Dante Jimenez and lawyer Argee Guevarra.

"I take full responsibility for the misunderstanding or miscommunication and wish to apologize for all the trouble this incident caused," said Caluag, convenor of the newly formed anti-drug crusade alliance Katotohanan.

"I should have been clearer in my communications to people, despite the fact that everything is in rush mode."

Sen. Edgardo Angara asked that Corpus and Mawanay be cited for contempt for the incident.

Angara said the "brazen" and "reckless" move was "in contempt of the premises and processes of the Senate."

"Springing a person held under custody of the Senate constitutes the highest insult on the Senate, and the Senate should take action," he said.

But Drilon said he would await the outcome of the investigation of the matter.

Drilon said the Senate might also declare Isafp men or Mawanay's lawyers in contempt should they be found to have helped him escape.

Mawanay earlier said he had never planned to escape. He pointed out that he had left his belongings at his detention quarters.

He also said he had assumed that his release order had already been approved.

Miscommunication

Corpus also said "it was a simple case of miscommunication between the concerned parties."

He denied that Isafp agents had spirited Mawanay from the custody of the Senate security personnel, and said this was being insinuated to "discredit" his unit.

Mawanay's meeting with the Cardinal was set at 3 p.m. Monday on the condition that it would not be covered by the media and that only he, his wife and two children would be present.

Caluag said that when Sin's office agreed to give Mawanay an appointment, he immediately informed Jimenez and Guevarra, who, in turn, advised him to formally inform Drilon of the meeting.

The priest said he faxed a letter of request to Drilon's office, which was reportedly received by a Mrs. Padilla.

He then informed Corpus' staff that the request had already been sent and that he had been told to wait for the clearance.

The Isafp then dispatched a team to help escort Mawanay to Villa San Miguel, as Caluag had earlier suggested to Corpus.

"I think there was a misunderstanding with regard to the clearance. When the Isafp men arrived at the Senate, the impression was that clearance had been given," Caluag said in his letter to Drilon.

About noon, Jimenez phoned Caluag, who was then attending a meeting at the Ateneo, to say that Mawanay and his escorts were about to leave the Senate for Villa San Miguel.

"When I returned to my office after 2 p.m., I was told by our executive assistants who were coordinating with Mrs. Padilla that she was surprised that Mr. Mawanay had left the Senate," Caluag told Drilon. "She had not received any message of clearance from your office."

Caluag said it was at this point that he realized there had been a miscommunication, and he immediately called Mawanay to tell him to return to the Senate.

Caluag appealed to Drilon in behalf of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Leonardo Lopez, whom had Senate president had asked to step down.

"While I am sure that there are standard operating procedures in security matters in the Senate, for what it is worth, I appeal on (Lopez's) behalf since the lapse was partly our fault," Caluag said.

It was to Caluag that Mawanay was entrusted by broadcaster Arnold Clavio when the supposed ex-agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force came out and implicated Sen. Panfilo Lacson in drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and other crimes.

With the consent of his superiors at the Ateneo de Manila University, Caluag took custody of Mawanay and his family before they were turned over to the Isafp on June 30.

Complaint

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the order of the Senate releasing Mawanay did not bar his office from acting on the alleged ex-agent's unlawful-detention complaint against Senators Robert Barbers, Loren Legarda, Aquilino Pimentel, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Noli de Castro, John Osmeña, Rodolfo Biazon and Robert Jaworski.

"As long as it is not withdrawn, the Office of the Ombudsman will act on (the complaint)," Desierto said.

He said he had ordered his officials to continue evaluating the document, which Mawanay's lawyers filed with the Ombudsman early Monday.

Oreta yesterday defended the Senate's decision to detain Mawanay. "As far as I'm concerned, we're just performing our duties as senators. I don't know if there's basis for him to file charges against us," she said.

She admitted that the complaint had caught her by surprise, and said she had yet to consult her co-respondents.

"I don't know if that will prosper. But anyhow, there are eight of us. Nene Pimentel is one of the (respondents) and he's a lawyer, so he would know what to do for the eight of us," Oreta said. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio***

PAOCTF spied on Erap foes–PNP

(From page A1)

that the gear was brought to them for "safekeeping" on orders of Lacson early this year.

"At the height of the impeachment trial, (top Lacson aide) Michael Ray Aquino wanted to bring to us the equipment for safekeeping. *Mainit daw* (They felt the heat). They finally brought the equipment to us in January or February this year" after Estrada stepped down, Ablan said.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, former chief of the PNP Intelligence Group and now Region 3 director, presented the suspects and the devices, which included what they said were sophisticated cell phone monitoring devices.

They said the equipment was recovered during an entrapment operation at the Discovery Suites on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig, where the Lacson's men and the suppliers were trying to "resell" the devices for P24 million.

Based on stored information retrieved from the computer's hard disk, which he showed to reporters, Berroya said that the devices were used to monitor Globe and Smart cell phone calls of lawmakers, members of the United Opposition, military intelligence officers, journalists and Singson.

Ablan confirmed Berroya's claim and said he witnessed PAOCTF men operating the devices inside a Toyota Hi-Ace van in the parking lot of Club Filpino in Greenhills, San Juan, on Oct. 9, when Singson gave his "explosive" news conference accusing former drinking and gambling buddy Estrada of taking bribes.

What they got

Mendoza said the evidence could be used to file possible criminal charges of perjury and violations of the anti-wiretapping law against Lacson and his men.

PRESENTING the tools of the eavesdropping trade are PNP Central Luzon police chief, Sr. Supt. Reynaldo Berroya and PNP chief Leandro Mendoza who claim they were seized from ex-PAOCTF operatives. At left are the owners of Amstrac Corp., the alleged suppliers of the bugging devices.

The PNP is considering filing other criminal charges against the senator and his aides for allegedly using government funds in undertaking "extra-judicial operations."

Seized were pieces of equipment capable of monitoring and locating GSM cellular phones and radio equipment, Berroya said.

Ablan said the devices are capable of capturing all calls from a minimum of a 100-meter radius to a maximum of a 5-kilometer radius.

"Once these calls are captured, the one operating the devices can easily get hold of the numbers of phones, store them in the disk, print them out for whatever purposes they want. But they can only listen to the conversations one at a time," Ablan explained.

One of the devices is a digital directional finder, with which an operator can pinpoint the exact location of two people conversing by cell phone, he added.

"We know that this state-of-the-art equipment and devices can be very dangerous if it were in the hands of unauthorized persons. With these devices, they could destroy the government and destroy the reputation of some people," Mendoza said.

'Breach of contract'

Another set of similar equipment is believed to be in the hands of Aquino, who left the country after criminal charges were filed against him, according to Mendoza.

Mendoza said it took Berroya's men three months to follow up on the leads.

Ablan said his company kept quiet during the impeachment trial because he believed that the PAOCTF and his firm were doing "legitimate business."

According to him, the PAOCTF still had to pay 30 percent of the P30 million at the time. He said Armstrack Corp. had an open line of credit with the Equitable Bank to "cover up" the amount used to consummate the deal.

"However, I got worried when the government abolished the PAOCTF. So, I executed an affidavit in May and told the bank about what had exactly transpired," Ablan said. "I also (said) that Lacson's PAOCTF breached several conditions in the contract—like the device should not be operated without our presence."

Ablan said Lacson's men "wantonly" used the equipment in Metro Manila, mostly in Quezon City.

Blast from past

Last December, Lacson appeared before the impeachment court in the wake of an INQUIRER report on allegations that the Estrada administration was systematically monitoring telephone records of Singson and other key figures in the impeachment trial.

Lacson testified that the PNP had not followed through with a plan to purchase equipment for electronic eavesdropping because some of the imported devices were not compatible with the telecom systems in use in the Philippines.

At the time, he confirmed that the head of the PNP's technical division had gone to Germany to shop for such devices, including landline and cell phone interceptors and surveillance cameras, but he said the deal was "not consummated."

"We will file charges of perjury and violation of the anti-wiretapping law against those who denied during the impeachment trial that the senators, congressmen, Singson and other perceived enemies of the Estrada administration had been placed under surveillance," Mendoza said.

"The investigation is still ongoing. We will know exactly what criminal charges to file and who would be charged upon the conclusion of the probe," Mendoza said.

Wong, Lim, pals, foes invited to Senate

(From page A1)

Razon was reacting to a statement made by former tourism secretary and Mondragon chair Jose Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez, who said that Wong had given Razon a golf share worth P850,000 in Mimosa Golf and Country Club, located in the former Clark Air Base, in July 1998.

Gonzalez, chair and chief executive officer of Mondragon, which operated the Mimosa Regency Casino and the Mimosa Leisure Estate until the former Estrada administration took over its operations last year, said Wong owned a garments factory that had supplied shirts to Mondragon for five years.

Since Mondragon failed to fully pay P11 million it owed Wong for the shirts, Wong agreed to accept 13 Mimosa shares instead, Gonzalez said.

One of the golf shares was transferred to the name of Razon, former chief of the Western Police District Command, Gonzalez said.

In a phone interview in Cebu City, Razon said he bought two shares in the Riviera in 1995 when he was still with the Presidential Security Group.

At that time, he said, each Riviera share cost about P700,000.

Razon said he decided to swap his one share with Wong's Mimosa share to recoup his investment. The Mimosa share cost "millions of pesos" in 1997, he said.

"It is not true that Wong gave me his Mimosa shares. We just swapped shares," he added.

Gonzalez said the value of the golf shares dropped to P450,000 per share when the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. canceled Mimosa's license to operate the casino.

Although he does not know Razon personally, Gonzalez said the police general has been regularly paying the monthly dues of P2,500 for his Mimosa share.

The club has 2,700 members, he said. It features a 100-hectare 36-hole golf course. The entire complex covers 315 hectares, and includes a casino.

Wong's lawyer, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, confirmed that Gonzalez paid his client in the form of Mimosa shares, though he could not say how many shares were involved.

Close friends

Razon said he has known Wong for 10 years, or since he was with the Western Police District, then headed by Chief Supt. Romeo Odi. It was Odi who introduced him to Wong, Razon said.

Gonzalez, for his part, said he met Wong through former Social Welfare Secretary Dulce Saguisag, chair of Magica, a sister company of Mondragon. Dulce is the wife of former Sen. Rene Saguisag, counsel of deposed President Estrada.

When asked to describe his relationship with Wong, Razon replied: "We're close friends."

Razon defended Wong against allegations that the restaurant owner and garments manufacturer was deeply involved in drug trafficking.

"I don't deny that (we're close friends). If it is true (that he is involved in drug trafficking), I will not protect him or condone his (illegal) activities," he said.

"*Sa aking pagkakilala sa kanya, hindi naman siya ganoon*," Razon told the INQUIRER. "*Kung nalaman ko lang* (If I thought he was into drugs), I would be the first one to arrest him."

He described Wong as a "helpful" man with "many friends." But he refused to name Wong's friends in high places lest they be "unfairly" dragged in the controversy.

Gonzalez characterized Wong as a "very charming" person who loves to bring his friends to play golf and to try their luck in the casino.

Razon admitted that he has been "watching the developments" since Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, accused Wong of being a drug lord and Sen. Panfilo Lacson's contact to a Chinese triad.

He said Corpus should file a case against Wong if the intelligence chief has evidence linking the businessman to the drug trade.

Another friend

Sen. Robert Barbers—head of one of the panels investigating Corpus' allegations—admitted being a friend of the suspected drug lord, but said the friendship will not influence the outcome of the hearing.

In an jmpromptu news briefing, Barbers said he met Wong in the 1980s when Barbers was still in the police department, but added that he has since lost touch with him.

"I'm not that close to him," he said.

In a separate interview, Senate President Franklin Drilon assured reporters that "mere acquaintance would not cloud anybody's judgment."

"We politicians have plenty of friends. (Does that mean) we can no longer participate in any hearing?" he asked. "I have full confidence in Senator Barbers."

Sen. Ralph Recto sought the invitation of Lim and Gonzalez, saying that anyone who has relevant information on the matter should be asked to bare it.

"This is not a small issue," he said of the accusations against Lacson and Wong.

Only inferences

Chavez lashed out at Lim for branding Wong a "drug lord masquerading" as a businessman.

"Kim Wong does not become a drug lord simply because Alfredo Lim says so," he said yesterday.

He said that Lim's claim was only based on "inferences, deductions and general conclusions that signify nothing."

He noted that when Wong was campaigning for Lim in the 1995 mayoralty race, and in the 1998 presidential race, Lim never linked Wong to drugs.

"It was only when Kim Wong campaigned for (Manila Mayor) Lito Atienza that Lim started calling him a drug lord," Chavez noted.

"Now, if Kim Wong was a drug lord as early as 1999, why didn't Alfredo Lim come after him when he was the (secretary of the interior), with the entire PNP under his command?" he asked. ***With a report from Donna S. Cueto***

Crucial tiff for Andok's, Negros today

By Roy Luarca

Game 1—Negros 93, San Juan 75
Game 2—San Juan 86, Negros 72

GAME TODAY: San Juan gym
5 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs Negros

ANDOK'S San Juan has stolen one road game from Negros. The pressure is now on the Slashers to return the favor at the San Juan Gym today.

The Knights exploited the Slashers' horrendous shooting to tally an 86-72 victory on Sunday and level their MBA First Phase title series at 1-1 at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

More important, the Knights wrested the homecourt advantage and would move within a win of retaining their crown if they repeat over the Slashers in the 5 p.m. encounter.

Game Four is also slated at the San Juan Gym on Friday and the Knights are determined not to let the best-of-five series return to Bacolod City anymore.

The Slashers, of course, are not about to surrender just because their seven-game winning streak at the USLS Gym has been broken.

For sure, the Slashers are going to come out better prepared and more motivated as momentum has shifted to the Knights.

Also, Negros coach Robert Sison went back to the drawing board and made the necessary adjustments as far as match-ups and their offensive rotation are concerned.

Sison's biggest challenge would be how to rev up Negros' attack, which has taken a dip in the finals, especially Ruben dela Rosa, Dennis Madrid and Cid White.

After averaging more than 10 points each in the eliminations and semifinals, White's average in the first two games has dropped to seven, Madrid's slid to six and Dela Rosa, unbelievably, has failed to score.

Ferriols' numbers also shrunk in Game Two as San Juan's defenders were able to clamp down on him because of the failure of Negros' gunners to hit from the outside.

The Slashers made only 21 of 74 field goal attempts for an awful 28 percent and did not fare any better worse from the three-point zone, sinking just seven of 30 tries for 23 percent.

As usual, San Juan coach Philip Cezar will bank on Chris Calaguio, Chito Victolero, Bruce Dacia, Rafi Reavis and Omanzie Rodriguez.

Llanes leads local shuttlers' charge

JAIME Llanes spearheaded the charge of the locals in the qualifier of the JVC Asian Badminton Championships yesterday by posting a 15-12, 15-6 victory over Eskandart Jalal of Iran and staying in the hunt for berth in the main draw of the $150,000 event which fires off today at the Philsports Arena.

Jaime Junio, Arolas Amahit, Lloyd Escoses and Rodel Bartolome likewise scored straight-set wins in the morning matches to remain in contention for eight wildcards staked in the men's singles event of the five-day championships sponsored by Japanese electronic giant JVC for the fifth straight year now.

Junio outclassed Tarek Shalhoum of Syria, 15-6, 15-4; Amahit whipped Adam Abaswath of Malaysia, 15-4, 15-0; Escoses turned back Bassel Al-Durra, also of Syria, 15-0, 15-12; while Bartolome scored a walkover win over Syrian Nawras Abdell Wahed.

They hope to sustain the momentum at the resumption of their bid today as Llanes, Junio, Amahit, Escoses and Bartolome vie for berths in the main draw against separate rivals at presstime last night.

A victory by Escoses against Malaysian Moose Nashid will set him up against top seed defending champion Taufik Hidayat in the first round of this event, which features at least three-to-five of the world's top 10 players.

Other matches pit Bartolome against Macau's O Man Tong, Llanes vs Leong Foil of Macau, Junio against Bagheri Gholamreza of Iran, and Amahit vs Cambodian Mohanthan Long.

Action in the main draw starts at 9 a.m. today with top Filipino bet Kennivic Asuncion battling Malaysian Ismall Saman, and Ian Piencenaves clashing with Gupta A. Syyain in the first round. In ladies singles, Chona Rivera opens her bid against Japanese Anjo Mika and Paula Obanana tangling with Iva Vrova Al-Katrib of Syria.

Meanwhile, saying badminton can hit it big in the Philippines, the International Management Group yesterday said it will help propagate the sports in the next three years.

"Hopefully, by the time our partnership with the Philippine Badminton Association is finished, you'll add another B to your list of favorite sports," said James White, IMG's pointman in Asian badminton, during yesterday's PSA Sports Forum at the Holiday Inn.

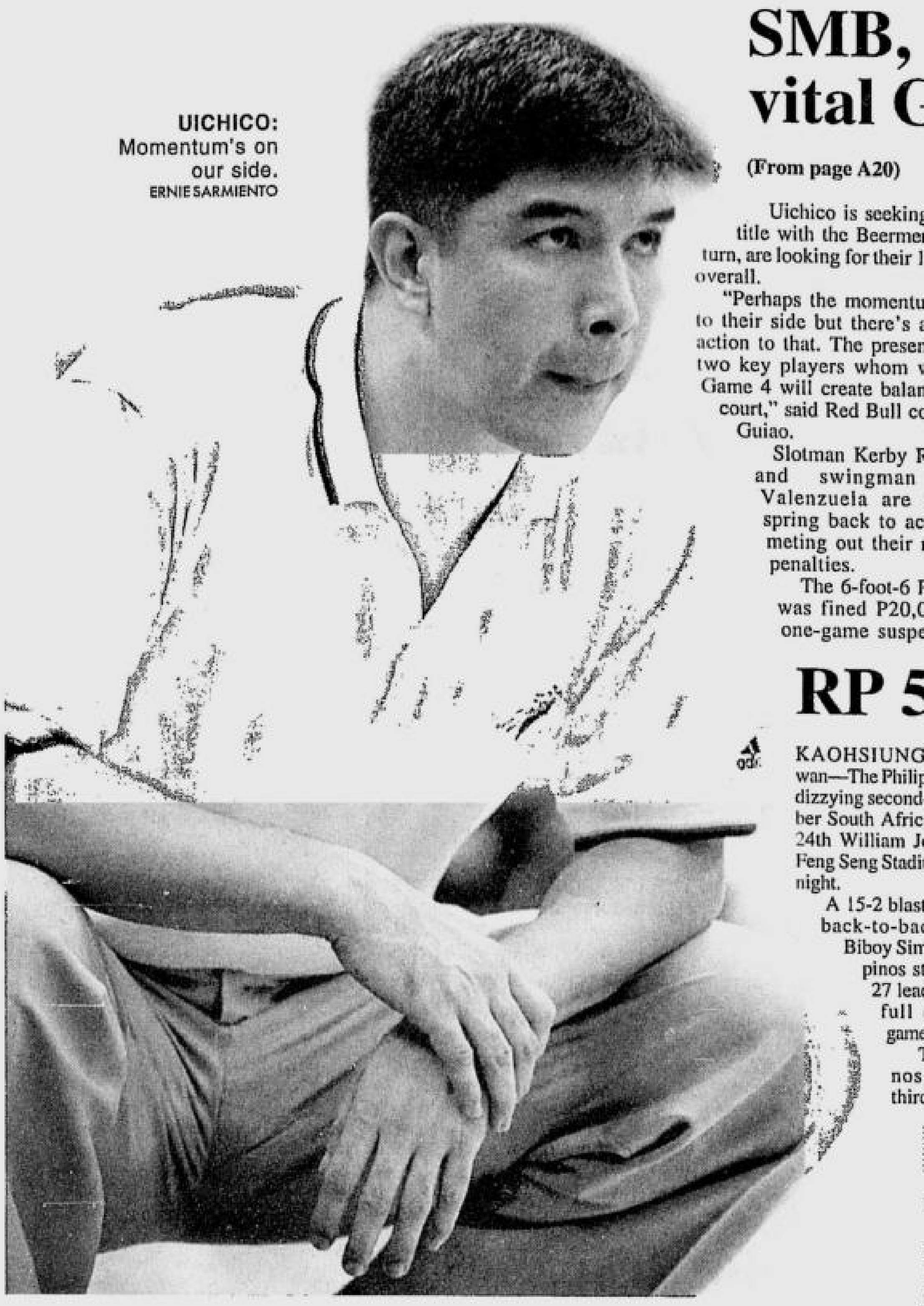
White, who is also here to help in the conduct of the $150,000 Asian Badminton Championships at the Philsports Arena, said if the Indonesians can become world-class, there's no doubt on the the capabilities and talents of Filipino players to barge into international prominence. *With a report from Dennis U. Eroa*

10 Years Ago

HUNGARIAN Norbert Rozsa clocked 1:01.29 to shatter his own world record in the 100-m breaststroke at the 20th European Swimming Championships in Athens. Rozsa broke his 1:01.45 recorded earlier at the World Swimming Championships in Perth.

* * *

JAN Timman drew Victor Korchnoi in 45 moves to win his series 4-1/2 to 2-1/2 and qualify for the semifinals of the World Chess Championships in Brussels.



UICHICO: Momentum's on our side.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

SMB, Red Bull eye vital Game 5 win

(From page A20)

Uichico is seeking his sixth title with the Beermen, who, in turn, are looking for their 17th crown overall.

"Perhaps the momentum shifted to their side but there's a counteraction to that. The presence of our two key players whom we lost in Game 4 will create balance on the court," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Slotman Kerby Raymundo and swingman Junthy Valenzuela are ready to spring back to action after meting out their respective penalties.

The 6-foot-6 Raymundo was fined P20,000 and a one-game suspension after hammering San Miguel's Dorian Pena in Game 3.

Luckily, Valenzuela escaped suspension but was assessed a P40,000 penalty for his mischief against Nate Johnson in Game 4.

With Valenzuela and Raymundo gone, Danny Seigle had a feast in the perimeter as the Thunder failed to cover the mismatches in the backcourt.

"We will go back to Games 3 and 4 and look for flaws at both ends of the floor," said Uichico.

He noted Red Bull, on the other hand, should dissect Games 1 and 2 and see how the Thunder won those games.

"I don't think so. All we need is a complete lineup and I guess with a little adjustment we can take it from there," said Guiao.

RP 5 rips Africans

KAOHSIUNG County, Taiwan—The Philippine FedEx used dizzying second-half run to clobber South Africa, 95-67, in the 24th William Jones Cup at the Feng Seng Stadium here Monday night.

A 15-2 blast, highlighted by back-to-back triples by Biboy Simon, sent the Filipinos storming to a 38-27 lead that gave them full control of the game.

Thus, the Filipinos notched their third victory in four games and boosted their bid for a semifinal berth in this 10-day tournament held in honor of Fiba's first ever secretary general.

"The morale of the boys is very high, especially Biboy (Simon), who finally got to show his stuff," said coach Johnny Tam.

Simon's third triple in the fourth quarter gave the Philippine team, composed of the RP Youth squad and the FedEx Laguna Lakers, its biggest lead of 35 points at 80-45.

The Nationals are still playing the undefeated Koreans (4-0) as of presstime.

Sportswatch

Table tennis seminar

HOW to raise the competitive level of Filipino table tennis players in international competitions will be tackled during a coaching seminar to be hosted by the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union on Aug. 25 at the Makati Youth Center on JP Rizal Street, Guadalupe Viejo. PTTDU president Jejomar "Erwin" Binay Jr. said the seminar is the first of a series of coaching and officiating clinics that will be held throughout the country to complement the monthly tournaments the union is holding year-round. PTTDU's initial project is the holding of the Makati Table Tennis Classics on Sept. 1 and 2 at the Makati Coliseum. The six-event tournament is expected to attract some 400 of the country's top players including the national men's and women's teams.

Students netfest up

SCHOOL tennis titans clash for supremacy when the 2001 Milo All-Students Tennis Championship unfolds at the Rizal Memorial hardcourts on Aug. 25-26 and Sept. 1-2. Team events featured are the collegiate men's and women's division, and the high school boys' and girls' categories in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids. "The best tennis schools in Metro Manila and some regional schools have signified their intentions to join this prestigious Milo All-Students which is held only once a year," said tournament director and national coach Chris Cuarto.

MCC meet Aug. 26

THE METROPOLITAN Chess Club will hold a 2050-below active chess meet on Aug. 26 at the 2nd floor of the Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The one-day event is open to all amateurs, unrated and rated players whose ratings are below 2050. The tournament will apply the seven-round Swiss system in selecting the top four finishers and best performers in the following categories: unrated; kiddies (under-14) and juniors (under-20). Registration is now accepted at the venue site. Those interested may call 826-8560 for other details.

3 ON 3

UV bets nip Xavier, end Manila's reign

METRO Manila's three-year reign in the Nike 3 on 3 basketball tournament ended last Saturday when Cebu-based University of Visayas upended Xavier School 21-20 in overtime at the jampacked makeshift court in SM Megamall.

Joseph Ronald Quinahan scored the winning basket with seven seconds left in overtime on a difficult reverse layup over the outstreched arms of Xavier defenders.

The basket cappped a hard fought match in which neither team led by more than two points. The win also avenged UV's 19-15 defeat at the hands of Xavier in the elimination round.

The champions were awarded with P25 000 worth of Nike products and Individual and champion crystal trophies. Reed Friar Juntilla the only carryover from last year's team shot a game-high 15 points and was later declared the Most Valuable Player. Quinahan added 5 while Jayford Rodriguez chipped in 1. Ariel Mepana provided much needed support on defense.

Xavier was led by Christopher Tiu with 10 points, Samuel Young shot 7 and Tyrone Tang had 3. Marc Einstein Tio was held scoreless the entire game. The Stallions also received individual and first runner-up crystal trophies and P15,000.00 worth of Nike products.

In the battle for third St. Francis edged Letran 21-19 for which they received P10,000.00 worth of Nike products and a trophy.

UV scored four wins in the elimination to take the second spot in Group II behind Xavier which had an unblemished 5-0 record. Defending champion Letran swept Group I while St. Francis of Assisi took the second berth.

Korea sports festival Aug. 25

THE Korean Association of the Philippines will hold its big event this year—the 2001 Korean Sports Festival—on Aug. 25 at the La Dalle Greenhills along Ortigas Avenue in Mandaluyong City.

According to Association president Sung Chon Hong, all Koreans residing in the Philippines numbering around 2,000 will see action in volleyball, football, track and field, tug-of-war, basketball and other events.

Korean Ambassador Sung-Oh Shin, all embassy officials and prominent Korean businessmen have been invited as guests of honor.

The one-day sportsfest will start at 9 a.m.

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Blockbuster

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE COUNT is even at 2-all, and if the atmosphere surrounding the best-of-seven series the past few days was any indication, basketball fans will be watching another hotly-contested match between San Miguel Beer and Batang Red Bull in Game 5 tonight of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Of course, the odds are stacked in San Miguel's favor again, even more tonight after it bounced back from a 0-2 deficit in the best-of-seven series. But newcomer Batang Red Bull should not be counted out, some quarters commented. As esteemed colleague Quinito Henson said, "If the series extends to six or seven, it'll be a 50-50 tossup." On the other hand, hard-hitting columnist Rudy Navarro wrote it would be Red Bull in six.

"Whatever happens we'll be happy. We've already proven ourselves by merely making it to the finals," said Thunder coach Yeng Guiao.

Incidentally, the blockbuster series is setting box office records, according to acting PBA Commissioner Sonny Barrios. And with more games slated at the Big Dome, the pro league may yet break all existing attendance records, something which should make my *kabayan* Jun Bernardino happy, who, thank heavens, is on the way to complete recovery.

* * *

FAREWELL, FELY. The late Fely Fajardo, who died of cancer of the ligament last Sunday at age 85, will be cremated at 8 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) at Loyola Memorial Park in Guadalupe after a Mass at 6 p.m. at the Sanctuario de San Jose in Greenhills.

A basketball legend in his time, Hall of Famer Fely Fajardo was captain of the Philippine team that placed 12th in the 1948 London Olympic Games. He was also the skipper of the Letran Knights who won their first NCAA senior championship in 1938 and key player of multi-titled University of Santo Tomas in the UAAP in National Open championships before the outbreak of the Pacific War. Fely was also a successful coach, mentoring the Philippine team to ninth place in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and the Carlos Loyzaga-powered San Beda Red Lions to two legs of the coveted Zamora Trophy in the NCAA in 1951 and 1952. Fely was the first Filipino referee to be accredited to the Fiba (International Amateur Basketball federation), the ruling body for basketball.

Standing at 5-foot-8, fleet-footed Fely dazzled the fans by dribbling at full speed then stopping just as fast before shooting the ball with deadly accuracy. This run-and-stop brand of play could have caused the ligament injury, said his wife, the former Joaquinita Gutierrez, a graduate of St. Theresa's College and elder sister of actor Juancho Gutierrez, husband of actress Gloria Romero. In June last year, Fely's left foot was amputated.

When I wrote about Fely's plight, there was an outpouring of support from the public, among them from former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office general manager Dr. Fernando Carrascoso, who solicited the help of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson after help did not come from the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Singson in turn informed his sister, new PCSO chair Maria Livia Honeygirl de Leon, about Fely's situation who immediately released the long delayed financial assistance of P50,000 to a deserving Filipino sports hero.

CANLUBANG TILT

Gines, Clavecilla ahead

By Jong Arcano

SOLOMON Gines went three-under right on the first four holes on the way to a two-under-par 70 yesterday that pushed him to a leadership tie with Iggy Clavecilla in the first round of the Canlubang Amateur Open golf championship.

Gines, a former national player, got going with a birdie-birdie-par-birdie rampage which made up for his up-and-down trip coming home at the challenging South course of the Canlubang complex.

In contrast, Clavecilla blundered early with a second-hole double-bogey. But that was to be the Clavecilla's only error as he collected four birdies along the way.

The two finished the day two shots ahead of defending champion Marlon Dizon and Juvic Pagunsan, the spearhead of the country's SEA Games team next month in Malaysia.

Pagunsan's SEAG teammates—Jay Bayron (75), Boyet Saragoza (78) and Marvin Dumandan (80) —were in the middle of the pack.

Ruby Chico-Walker and Lucy Landicho set the early pace in the ladies division of the Globe Telecoms-sponsored tourney.

Walker and Landicho assembled similar 75s for a two-shot lead over Carmelette Villaroman as the three members of the ladies national team played true to form.

Keeping themselves within reach of the pace in men's play were ex-pro Dave Hernandez of Calatagan and Ronnie Torrecampo who both had 73s under the ideal playing conditions.

Gines was still four under when he teed off on the 17th only to fumble with a couple of closing bogeys that derailed his solo leadership bid.

Gumila tops Class A field

EDWIN Gumila of Group & Designs Studio topped the premiere Class A in the second Bticino Golf Trophy held at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club recently.

Other winners in the annual tournament organized by Legrand Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of France's Legrand group, were Elmer Cabrera of Makati City Hall in Class B and Rolly Bonifacio of RGV Technical Services in Class C.

The runners-up were Manuel Bernabe in Class A, Lyzel Sta. Maria in Class B and Felino Coloma in Class C. Those who shine in the fun competition were Butch Tangan, Gail Arcilla, Edgar Lee, Dante Abando, Efren Cruz and Christopher Ong.

Sexy star Angela Velez led the ceremonial tee-off and rendered a song during the awarding ceremony of the tournament sponsored by Adidas, Air Philippines, Jewelmer International, MR Travel Services, Svenson International, The South Spa and Zethor fine leather goods.

Lucky participants, composed of architects, engineers, contractors and developers, took home exciting prizes during the awarding ceremony.

Luzvimin invt'l meet in Cebu on

CEBU—A tight battle for the overall championship looms due to the absence of defending champion Canlubang as 21 teams tee off today for the 2001 Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club course.

Jungolf standout Anya Tanpinco banners the strong Bacolod bid while Sta. Elena, Alabang and Villamor loom as the most likely challengers in the 54-hole event organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Preceding tourney is the hitting of ceremonial tee offs by WGAP president Gina Tuason, CCC director Bugs Unchuan and Rosebud Sala, president of the CCC ladies chapter.

Also fielding teams in the tourney which has Philippine Airlines as major sponsor are Philippine Navy, Alta Vista, Bacolod, Camp John Hay, Club Filipino de Cebu, Lanang, Manila Southwoods, Riviera, Villamor, Aguinaldo, Apo, Baguio, Canlubang, Del Monte, Marapara, Pamplona Plantation and Victorias.

Canlubang begged off due to the participation of its frontliners, SEA Games-bound Ruby Chico-Walker and Carmelette Villaroman, in a club-hosted event.

Tournament format allows each team to field six players with the best four counting each day. The Molave system of scoring will be used in the team and individual competitions.

Teams will be classified according to handicaps in three divisions, Diamond, Ruby and Pearl.

Baltao shines; Pulmones bags rookie award

SUBIC—Team Speedwerks ace rider Carlo Baltao got the needed breaks in the final race to upset back-to-back champion Paul del Rosario yesterday and capture the coveted 2001 Petron Jet Ski Rider of the Year award at the Waterfront Beach here.

Baltao was actually 12 points behind Del Rosario after the first hydrocross race but the big twist came in the exciting climax of the premiere Expert Runabout 1200 Super Stock class.

Del Rosario, the Team Network skipper, accumulated a perfect total of 480 points but plastic trash clogged his exhaust pipe at the start signal, giving Baltao the head start for the hole shot.

From thereon, Baltao pulled ahead and never looked back to clinch the plum by just two points, 588-586.

"It was really a stroke of luck. Paul has the talent and the machine that pulled him to perfect scores throughout the series," quipped Baltao, who likewise bagged the Expert Runabout 765 title over runner-up BJ Ang and third placer Ben Sun Que.

Sharing the limelight in this event sponsored by Petron Corp., WG&A Super Ferry and SBMA with Baltao are Ferdinand Pulmones and Excel "The Twister" Torres.

Pulmones, a native of Pagadian City, completed his conquest over his Manila-based rivals by bagging the Rookie Rider of the Year award over Harley David in the Novice Runabout 785 Stock.

Torres, Team No Fear's ace novice rider, all the while thought he lost the Stock Rider award after finishing only third in the combined novice and veterans race. But in the final tally, he outlasted newcomer Jeremy Chua for the award by only two points, 516-514.

Del Rosario bagged the title in the Expert Runabout 1200 Super Stock over James Baltao while 1998 champion John Dee ruled the Expert Runabout 785-1200 division over Del Rosario and BJ Ang.

UPLB booters reach finals

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Los Baños advanced to the inaugural Lipovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour national finals when it ruled the Lipovitan XL men's division recently at the UPLB Freedom Park.

The UPLB Eagles, who will represent the province of Laguna, will join Ateneo Graduate School of Business, Rizal Technological University, UP-Diliman, UST, College of St. Benilde, Don Bosco Center of Studies and the Tarlac qualifier in the finals slated from Aug. 25 and 26.

Hosting the two-day finals featuring the country's best 4 on 4 sides is the Powerplant Mall at Rockwell, Makati City.

Organized by Pro-Aide with Dexter M. Araquel as project director, the event is sponsored by Lipovitan Energy Drink with Mizuno as official outfitter and IBC 13 as official TV station. Other sponsors are: Magic 89.9, Excel press, YKL, Powerplant Mall, and Lakbay Sandals.

Also advancing to the nationals finals in the Lipovitan LPO boys division is Cahbriba Alternative School and UPLB in the IRA women's class.

Coached by Jonathan Hernandez, the Eagles are composed of Jeffrey Padilla, Enrique Padilla, Ronnie Dimaculangan, Abraham Eurlings and Mark Lustia.

Other teams which saw action in the Laguna qualifiers were: Letran College-Calamba, AMA Los Baños, Southill School, P. Guevarra HS-Sta. Cruz, UPLB Team B and UP Alumni.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	51	.592	
Boston	68	56	.553	5
Toronto	59	66	.472	15
Baltimore	53	71	.427	20 1/2
Tampa Bay	44	81	.352	30
Central				
Cleveland	69	55	.557	
Minnesota	65	60	.520	4 1/2
Chicago	60	63	.488	8 1/2
Detroit	52	71	.423	16 1/2
Kansas City	51	74	.408	18 1/2
West				
Seattle	89	36	.712	
Oakland	73	52	.584	16
Anaheim	66	59	.528	23
Texas	54	71	432	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	55	.553	
Philadelphia	67	56	.545	1
Florida	59	64	.480	9
New York	56	68	.452	12 1/2
Montreal	53	71	.427	15 1/2
Central				
Houston	71	53	.573	
Chicago	69	55	.557	2
St. Louis	68	56	.548	3
Milwaukee	54	69	.439	16 1/2
Cincinnati	49	75	.395	22
Pittsburgh	45	78	.366	25 1/2
West				
Arizona	72	51	.585	
San Francisco	70	54	.564	2 1/2
Los Angeles	67	57	.540	5 1/2
San Diego	61	62	.496	11
Colorado	53	70	.431	19

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 3, Minnesota 2; N.Y. Yankees 9, Texas 6; Kansas City 10, Chicago White Sox 1; Boston 6, Anaheim 1; Detroit 4, Seattle 1; Oakland 9, Cleveland 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 4, 1st game; Milwaukee 10, Chicago Cubs 2, 2nd game; Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 4, 11 innings. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: CVS Charity Classic, Day One at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Senior PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship, First Round tomorrow at 3 a.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Classic, Semifinals at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

WTA Fstyle.Com Classic, Finals at 10:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Hungarian Grand Prix at 9:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships - Hungarian Grand Prix at 10:15 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag - Hungarian Grand Prix tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 7 a.m. on ESPN

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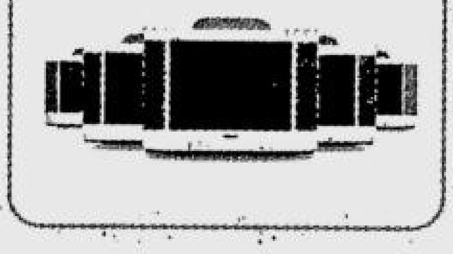

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What Drives You CALTEX

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Kuerten, Hingis top seeds

NEW YORK—Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil was top seeded among the men and Martina Hingis of Switzerland was No. 1 among the women for the US Open, which begins next week at the National Tennis Center. US Open seedings released Monday include 32 men and 32 women, double last year's total. As in the past, seedings were based on tour rankings for the year's final Grand Slam event, which begins next Monday.

AP

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SMB, Red Bull eye vital Game 5 win

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
7 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer (Game 5)

Game 1—Red Bull d SMB, 80-78
Game 2—Red Bull d SMB, 92-86
Game 3—SMB d Red Bull, 100-91
Game 4—SMB d Red Bull, 88-72

By JUNE NAVARRO

PRESSURE on them. Momentum on us.

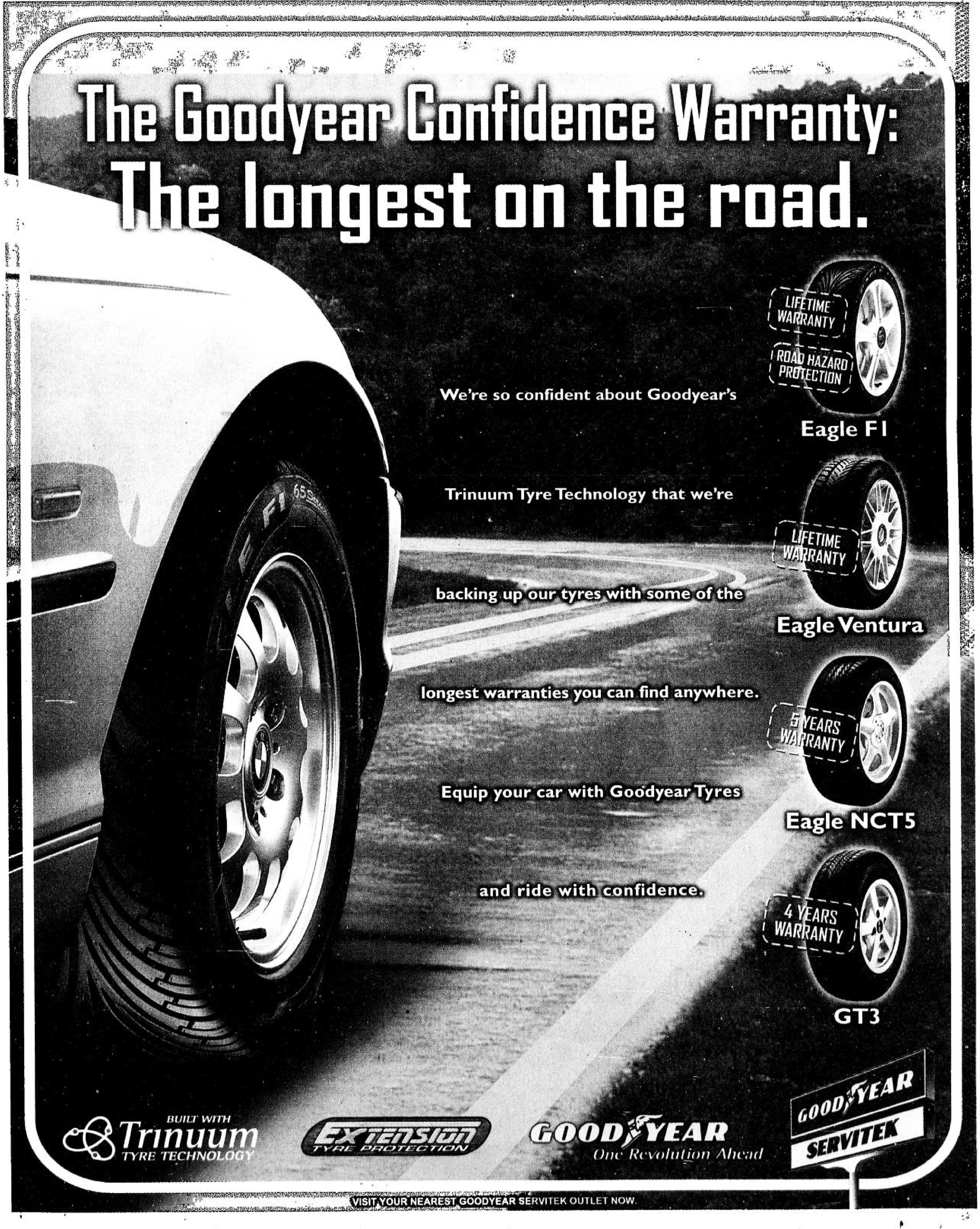
San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico will bank on these situations as his Beermen go for a crucial Game 5 win over the Red Bull Thunder in the PBA Commissioner's Cup Finals tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

On equal footing with the Thunder after sweeping the last two games, the Beermen will try to move closer in becoming the first team to ever come back from a 0-2 deficit since Toyota did the trick in 1982.

"Last time, pressure is on Red Bull yet the momentum is still on their side. Now, I'm pretty sure the momentum shifted to us," said Uichico.

SMB/ A18

YENG GUIAO



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■ 'Police knew case against Hayashi suspect was weak' A22

■ Bare Eye: Yes, there's a solution to all this mess A22

Manor owner hunted; 6 QC officials sacked

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Philip C. Tubeza

QUEZON CITY Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday sacked six more city hall employees believed to have a hand in the questionable issuance of permits to the Quezon City Manor Hotel where a Saturday dawn fire killed 74 people.

One of the six is said to be a utility worker who was allegedly able to sign business permits.

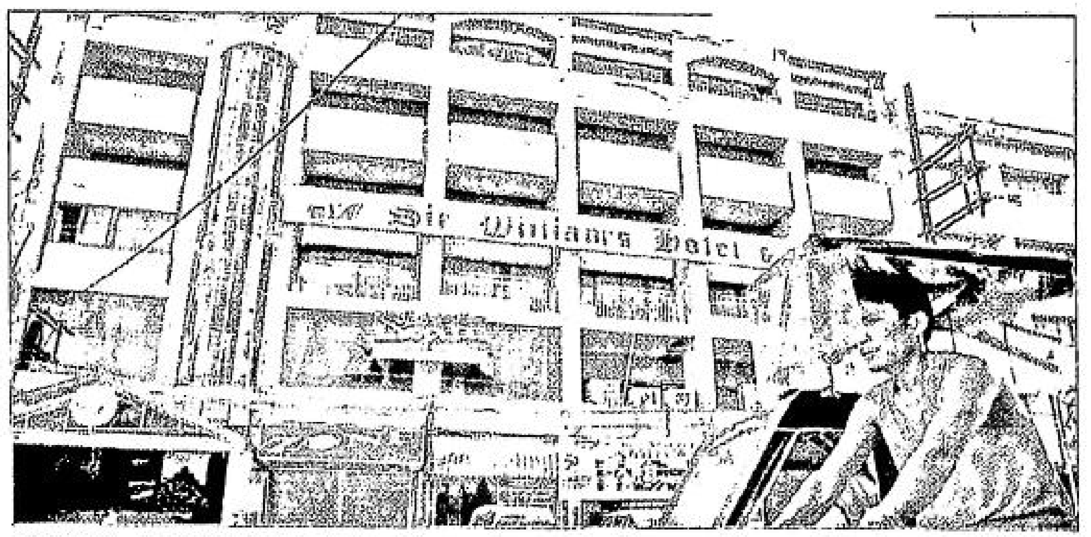
Police were hunting Manor Hotel owner William Tan Genato in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to answer criminal charges that his negligence caused the deaths in one of the country's worst fires, investigators said.

Police also expanded their investigation to include possible charges against Genato's wife, who is listed as president of Manor Hotel, which authorities said had been violating safety measures since 1992.

Another victim died yesterday, bringing the death count to 74.

Relieved of their posts were Quezon City license inspectors 2 Godfrey Colet and Jose Calauag, officer 1 Voltaire Padilla and utility worker Willy Jerez, all of the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO), engineer Romeo Montillana, head of the city engineers'

MANOR OWNER/A22



CLOSED. This budget hotel on Timog Avenue in Quezon City, said to be owned also by Manor Hotel owner William Tan Genato, has been closed for 60 days reportedly for fire code violations.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Moving oil depot can take 5 to 10 years–Atienza

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA city government is willing to work out a plan with the big oil companies for the eventual phaseout and relocation of the Pandacan oil depot, Mayor Lito Atienza said yesterday.

He estimated that the relocation of the depot would take five to 10 years.

On Saturday, the Manila-based United Firefighters Association of the Philippines warned that the oil depot in the densely populated Pandacan district in Manila could go up in flames and torch to death thousands of residents in the area.

Atienza said the oil terminal is indeed a "fire hazard," but he said police, the military and the security forces of the oil companies are "working 24 hours a day trying their best to prevent an accident."

The firefighters also said they are not equipped to respond effectively should fire break out in the oil depot.

"We understand the situation of the oil companies but we are also concerned about the welfare of our city," Atienza said during a fire safety inspection of dormitories in the city's University Belt area.

City Councilor Edward Tan of the 2nd district has filed a resolution urging the Department of Energy to consider moving the entire oil depot complex to a more secure and safer place.

"It would be a nightmarish and horrifying scenario if a fire strikes the depot, considering the huge volume of highly volatile liquids spread out in a wide area," said Tan, who heads the council's committee on police, peace and order, fire and public safety.

MOVING OIL/A22

Binay wants US film recalled for making anti-Pinoy remark

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday called for the immediate recall of the American movie "The Animal" from theaters nationwide citing numerous complaints his office has received regarding a line in the dialogue that says "that bitch is dumb."

According to the complaints, the line referred to a Filipino male character in the movie, which stars Filipino-American actor Rob Schneider in the title role. Schneider was also a co-writer of the film distributed locally by Columbia Pictures.

BINAY WANTS/A22

WAZZZZUP ?
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22 912-8983

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Kaya may bagong Bonakid. Ang Bonakid ay sadyang ginawa para sa kanya. May tamang sustansya sa tamang sukat. Dahil bata pa ang kanyang mga buto, baby pa ang ngipin, kailangan niya ng mas maraming calcium.

Dahil maselan pa ang kanyang tiyan, kailangan walang butterfat. At dahil lumalaki pa siya, kailangan niya ng mas maraming protina, iron at B-complex. Dahil espesyal ang iyong anak, bigyan mo siya ng espesyal na alaga.

Ba't mo siya bibigyan ng ordinaryong gatas?

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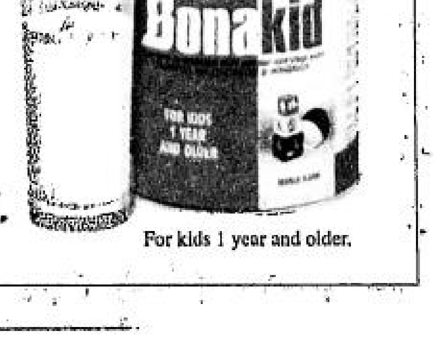


For kids 1 year and older.

'Police knew case against Hayashi suspect was weak'

By Christian V. Esguerra

A RANKING Caloocan police official yesterday admitted they rushed the filing of charges against masseur Alex Ilagan for the death of Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi last month.

The police official who refused to be identified admitted that the evidence against Ilagan, 31, was weak "from the very beginning," and he confirmed the initial findings of Chief Inquest Prosecutor Oscar Yu.

The official said investigators were pressured into arresting and charging Ilagan because of the deadline set by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"Investigators knew the case against Ilagan was weak," the official told the Inquirer. "But they had to file it because of the DILG pressure. Ilagan could be a fall guy."

At least 13 sets of fingerprints were lifted from the crime scene, but police did not include the test results in the case filed against Ilagan, claiming they had been contaminated.

But according to the police official, the results were not included because police found out that none of the fingerprints belonged to Ilagan.

"They didn't want to contradict themselves," the official said.

Police, he said, should have looked for other suspects aside from Ilagan and determined who among them had the best motive to kill or have Hayashi killed on the evening of July 22.

Police relied heavily on the testimony of witness Reynaldo Ortillano, who claimed he saw Ilagan knocking on the door of Hayashi's house the night the Japanese was killed.

The source said investigators should not have dismissed the fact that Ilagan did not match the police sketch based on Ortillano's description of the man he saw.

The police official echoed Yu's observation that Antonio Clet, 47, Hayashi's aide for 13 years, should have been tagged as a primary suspect.

Between Ilagan and Clet, the aide had the stronger motive to have the Japanese killed, the source pointed out.

He suspected Clet could have ordered Hayashi killed allegedly because the aide was afraid the Japanese would sell his property, return to Japan, and leave nothing to him.

Clet's unnatural response to Hayashi's killing bolstered the official's suspicion.

He said Clet suspected something bad had happened to Hayashi on July 22. The next morning, Clet refused to go to Hayashi's house right away. He asked barangay watchmen to accompany him and he explained to them that he was afraid he would be implicated in the case.

This was even before he found out what had happened to the Japanese.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 22, 2001
Queenship of Mary

1st Reading:	**Is 9:1-6**
Gospel:	**Lk 1:26-38**

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you: therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

Mary was called to play a prominent role in God's plan of salvation. Luke points out that this task went beyond Mary's wildest imagination. Humanly speaking, Mary was in the position to turn it down, because what was proposed sounded unreal. She nevertheless allowed God to enter unconditionally into her life and in this process was willing to accept the role of being the handmaid of the Lord. She thus entered into a venture with God that would affect her life very deeply. The greatness of Mary lies not only in the fact that she accepted this mission but also in the fact that she remained faithful to this commitment that changed the whole course of her life dramatically.

We thank you Father for the wonderful example of faith you have given us in Mary. Grant that we may also accept our role in your plan of salvation.

Closed

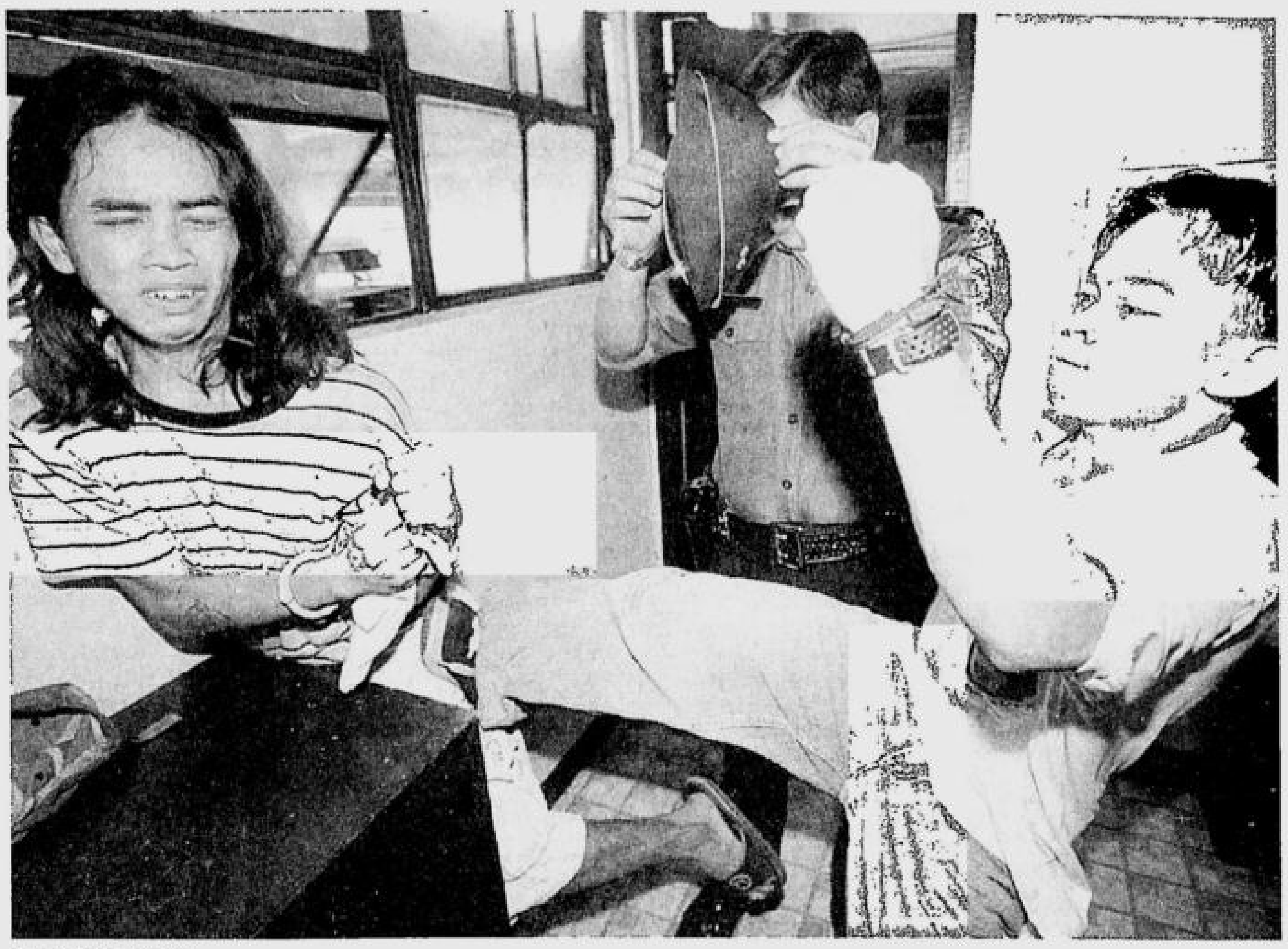
PASIG City Mayor Soledad Eusebio yesterday ordered the temporary closure of the fertilizer plant of LMG Chemicals Corp., which reportedly was the source of the toxic fumes that killed a housewife and sent 30 others to the hospital Sunday evening.

Eusebio vowed to permanently shut down the plant in Barangay Pinagbuhatan if the task force she created to investigate the toxic leak would find that LMG violated the Clean Air Act.

LMG has been operating for the past 30 years. Management admitted that their sulfuric acid plant was shut down on Friday for repairs. But apparently the plant was in better condition for plant officials decided to operate the machines again Sunday afternoon.

The fumes, which were monitored starting 7:40 p.m. Sunday, caused breathing difficulties to residents near the plant. One of them, Ana Cahindi, 54, of 38 Salandanan St., died.

Agnes E. Donato



TAKE THAT!
While a policeman stands by, a student gives Jonjoy Javier a high kick after the latter allegedly snatched his cell phone. Javier was arrested in Sta. Cruz, Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

Manor owner hunted . . .

(From page A21)

electric division, and engineer and electrical inspector Gerardo Villasenor.

They joined business permits chief Ricardo Galvez and city engineer Alfredo Macapugay, who were sacked Monday.

The BPLO is the bureau that issues and renews business permits. The electrical division is in charge of inspecting the electrical wiring of business establishments to ensure that they follow specifications and safety measures.

In a news conference, Belmonte expressed bewilderment on how Manor Hotel was issued a business permit two months ago when it obviously committed several violations of fire safety measures.

The Central Police District is set to file criminal charges before the Office of the Ombudsman against government officials who allegedly coddled the owners of Manor Hotel since the hotel was found violating safety regulations in 1992.

Belmonte said that the hotel's business permit expired in June and was not replaced, that it was stealing electricity through illegal "jumpers" attached to electricity lines and that it failed to comply with previous orders from city fire inspectors.

He said the six he fired were "junior" city staff.

A source refused to confirm if the city hall employees Belmonte fired would be Genato's co-accused, but the source said the case of "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and serious physical injuries in relation to graft and corrupt practices involved in operations and licensing process anomalies" would be ready before the weekend.

"We are still finalizing everything," the source told the Inquirer. "This would be a package-deal case against those responsible for the fire.

"We found out that the hotel had been violating safety regulations since 1992, but these officials continued to give the hotel permits," he added.

Police were hunting for Genato in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to answer criminal charges that his negligence caused the fire deaths, according to police investigator Roger Yalung.

The Department of Interior and Local Government ordered immigration authorities to issue an all-points alert and to notify the police if Genato tries to leave the country, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo told reporters.

On Monday, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) lodged a criminal complaint for reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide against Genato for the pre-dawn hotel blaze.

Government television yesterday reported that Genato had sent word to the authorities that he would show up before police investigators later in the day. He also made it known through intermediaries that he was willing to help the victims, the report added.

Senior Supt. Danilo Cabrera of the BFP said he might file charges of reckless endangerment resulting in multiple deaths and injuries against Rebecca Genato, wife of the Manor Hotel owner.

Cabrera said investigators are trying to find out if anyone else may have been involved in the management of the hotel where the fire took place.

In a TV interview late Monday, Mrs. Genato denied most of the accusations against her husband. "We have complete safety precautions," she said. "We have alarm systems and we also have a fire hose system and complete fire exits."

She admitted receiving two notices of fire code violations in the past. She said she corrected most of the deficiencies mentioned.

She said the windows were barred because somebody had attempted suicide earlier by jumping out the hotel windows.

The death count in the Manor Hotel fire rose to 74 yesterday after Marcia Cathedral died around 5:30 a.m. at the V. Luna Medical Center, according to Dr. Joseph Macareza of the BFP emergency medical service. *With reports from AFP, AP*

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Moving oil . . .

(From page A 21)

Tan said any accident would cause "a conflagration of incalculable and unimaginable proportions," which he said he believes "cannot be controlled by our meager and outdated fire-fighting equipment."

Atienza said he has already spoken with the council leaders regarding the proposal.

While he said he agrees that the oil depot should be relocated, he also said "we should also give sufficient time to gas companies, because any serious dislocation could ultimately cause a fuel price increase."

Since June, the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines Inc. has been calling for the relocation of the depot to a far and unpopulated place.

Association spokesperson Alvin Estrada said he once visited the depot, located between the Pasig River and Jesus Street, and was shocked to find a barbecue stand near the complex and drivers of oil trucks smoking cigarettes.

Tan warned that there is also the probability of sabotage or a terrorist attack on the depot.

Yes, there's a solution to all this mess

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(ANNOUNCEMENT & FAREWELL: The National Amateur Scrable Association of the Philippines will hold its first Friendship Games on Saturday at the San Felipe Neri Savings and Credit Cooperative Building at 268 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City. Interested participants may register by calling Nascap, 578-8612, or texting numbers 0917-3711112 or 0919-3184392….Philippine sports lost a pillar with the passing of Olympian Fely Fajardo. Coach Fely, better known as Mr. Perfection, helped lay the foundation that ushered that bygone golden era in Philippine basketball. He trained and mentored several legendary figures, like Carlos Loyzaga, Carlos Badion, Renato Reyes, Narciso Bernardo, during his coaching stints in the Micaa and UAAP tournaments. He continued teaching for in basketball clinics that he helped set up after his retirement. Fajardo, 85, lies in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, San Juan.)

* * *

FOR one whole week, no garbage truck was seen servicing communities in Mandaluyong City. In neighboring Makati, Mayor Jejomar Binay warned that the worsening garbage crisis threatened the health of residents. The problem was no less serious in other neighboring towns and cities in the metropolitan area.

It was later learned that garbage trucks were available. But there was no site wherein to dump the mountains of urban trash.

The Metro Manila Development Authority meanwhile has kept announcing that the garbage mess would be eradicated but, so far, no pertinent solution has come from the government agency.

Should we just watch while the whole of Metro Manila stinks and rots?

Of course, there is a remedy to the garbage problem, the speaker across the round restaurant table explained, but what is needed here is a technical solution. And there should be strict implementation of the scheme from Plan A all the way down. We should forget political accommodations if we want to succeed.

The chance encounter took place on Monday. The speaker avoided sounding like he was giving a lecture. But the urgency in his quiet voice betrayed his impatience.

In the first place, he said, composting sounds nice but it cannot provide the ultimate solution to the garbage crisis. For one thing, you're still left with the trash after you're through with the composting process.

So how do we solve this garbage mess?

We were all set to implement a solution, he explained, but this was overcome by political events.

* * *

He proceeded to bare the basics of the aborted plan: Use the existing railway system. Garbage would be put in big vans that would be transported to designated stations from where it would next be taken by train to a landfill in Quezon. The landfill measures a total of 1,000 hectares. It sits beside another vacant 1,000 hectares of land. Trees would be planted around the landfill.

There would be processing of garbage at the main entrance. A composting station would be put up right above the landfill area. Poor families who subsist through scavenging would be made to settle in a community to be put up around the landfill area. There would be livelihood projects and the residents would be made to strictly follow community rules.

Will using the existing rail system south of Manila be more effective than the use of garbage trucks?

But of course, he exclaimed, with the use of trains, transport and collection of garbage would be more consistent. There would be less of the garbage trucks which, as we all know, have been among the major traffic obstacles in the metropolitan area.

The speaker, youngish with a thick, short soldier's hair, appeared genuinely convinced that his novel plan would work. He is, in fact, looked up to as a genius and wonder worker who has transformed a dirty, chaotic place that was always threatened with big floods into a model city in the Metro Manila.

But have you offered this plan to the government, he was asked.

I heard they are interested, he said, but so far there has been no significant communication.

And would you be willing to lend your expertise?

Naturally, I would go all out to help, but I don't want it to appear that I'm batting for a government position. As I have explained, what we need to solve all this mess is not a political solution. The problem is purely technical. We need knowledgeable people who can implement a pertinent plan.

* * *

The speaker, sticking to a glass of lemonade while his two captive listeners sipped brandy, bared he had previously been tapped to oversee other major projects. There was the planned transformation of a big area around the Ninoy Aquino International Airport into something hospitable and pleasant. He said he had planned to involve businessmen and big companies to help in the project.

No, we won't put up high walls to cover the slum areas from foreign visitors, he explained. We would instead develop these places and even open roads to show to everybody that Filipinos are capable of living properly.

Is this the best solution?

Well, we can't go on hiding and deodorizing the mess around us. We have to face up to the problems and lick them. The secret is proper technique and implementation. We should start now and show the example. Forget about childish political quarrels. We've to work hard and again make the Filipino trust and believe in himself. But our government and leaders must show the way.

Binay wants US film . . .

(From page A21

Binay said in a statement that many people have apparently taken the line as a racial slur against Filipinos.

"Obviously, people who have watched it didn't find it funny," Binay said.

Audiences in various theaters where the movie is being shown have reportedly booed the scene, Binay said.

He asked the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to exercise extra caution and to take necessary steps to protect the "impressionable minds of the youth" from being conditioned by such negative statements about themselves.

He made a "strong request" to owners and operators of movie houses in Makati to immediately stop the screening of the film.

JERRY BRUCKHEIMER

An expert on hits talks about a hit on experts

Q & A

JERRY Bruckheimer is riding the crest of box-office and critical success again.

After the successive smash hits "Pearl Harbor," "Coyote Ugly," "Armageddon," "Enemy of the State," and "Gone in 60 Seconds" comes "Crime Scene Investigation," the new award-winning TV series that tackles the career and lives of forensics experts.

The show, seen in the US on CBS, is now seen across Asia through AXN, the only action and adventure channel.

AXN is seen on Sun Cable (Channel 38), SkyCable (Channel 28) and Home Cable (Channel 24).

With "Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)," AXN has added another feather in its cap. CSI is seen on AXN Wednesdays at 9 p.m. with rebroadcast on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

According to CBS Ratings 2001, CSI is the best performing show in its primetime slot in the US and is second only to the hit reality show "Survivor."

CSI earned a number of nominations, including best TV drama, from the Golden Globe 2000, and best edited one-hour series for TV from the Cinema Editors Awards 2001. It won as best new series of the year in the TV Guide Awards.

It seems like Bruckheimer could do nothing wrong these days.

Starting out as a commercial producer in his native Detroit, Bruckheimer and his raw talent were noticed by an ad agency in New York. Soon, he took Hollywood by storm with "Flashdance" and "American Gigolo."

Fifteen Academy Award nominations which included two Oscars for best song, Grammys, Golden Globes and a slew of other awards and nominations later, Bruckheimer is still on a winning streak.

In an interview—thanks to AXN—with this writer via teleconferencing along with eight other journalists from all over the world, Bruckheimer, now based in Los Angeles, answers questions about CSI, his life and his upcoming projects.

What are the show's (CSI) innovative features that you think captivated the audiences worldwide?

I think there are three important factors that set "Crime Scene Investigation" apart from other TV shows—the technology available, forensics medicine and the fact that real CSIs (crime scene investigators) write and research for the show. We are fortunate enough to have the right equipment to reproduce shots that resemble real images that real CSIs capture in an event of the crime, images that looks the same as the real evidence like photographs, equipment that resembles the actual tools that real CSIs use. We have a very talented production team and this is but only a few of their capabilities.

Second, I think that people became closely interested in forensics medicine ever since the O.J. Simpson case several years ago. The turn of events, how the forensics experts dealt with the case and how the media covered it aroused public interest level.

Third, the writers sure know what they are writing about for they are real forensic experts themselves. They have been to crime scenes and have actually solved crimes in the past.

Marg Helgenberger (who plays Catherine Willows on the show) said that because of CSI, kids nowadays have taken a special interest in forensic medicine. How do you feel about that?

It is a delight to know that there are kids who have taken interest in such the field. There are not too many of them out there and this will be a big boost to our experts out there.

With our audiences getting younger and younger, what made you decide to get, shall we say, "matured" actors for the show? Were you involved in the casting?

Yes, I am part of the casting for the show. I have worked with William Peterson (who plays Gil Grimsson) and Marg before. It is a delight working with them again.

CBS always had older audiences as part of its loyal followers (laughs).

Are the cases used in the show lifted from real crimes?

Most of them, yes. Since our writers are real crime scene investigators or forensic experts, the ideas come from, yes, real cases. Only the names of the actual persons involved were changed so as to protect their identities.

Reality TV is the rage today. Is there a conscious effort to align CSI among these shows to rate better?

No. We just do things as ideas come along. We don't want to make CSI reality TV although again, most of the cases in the shows are actual cases.

You mentioned before in an interview that you are not in the entertainment industry but in the transportation industry because you transport audiences to a different world. You transported them to the mid-'50s in "Pearl Harbor," to the underworld or the world of crime in "Gone in 60 Seconds." "CSI" is lifted from actual cases. What can you say about this?

In a sense we still transport the audiences, but we transport them to a world that they don't usually see. It is a world where imagination runs, where one would never know what would happen next. They are actually part of this world, but they can never be involved in it.

There is something that we call "process television" wherein a show takes a person to a world that one can watch but can never be part of. We are doing that on CSI.

What are the difficulties in producing such a show?

Well, one of the things that make it difficult is that you have to shoot 22 shows a year. It has been tough for the cast and the crew, who work long hours. But I must say they are doing an excellent job.

What are the differences in producing for TV as opposed to film? Is this your first time to venture into producing for the small screen?

Actually, I've produced some shows and mini-series before. TV, as I've said, actually takes long hours to do and a longer time to produce as opposed to most of the films I've done, well, except "Pearl Harbor" which actually took two years to make.

But as I've said, we got to have 22 shows for one year and the work has to be fast paced. TV requires a more condensed and faster storytelling.

Are you planning to include big name stars in some episodes, say Nicolas Cage?

Oh, we'd love to have him on the show for a few episodes, but our writers are trying to keep the show realistic. Hiring the services of big stars for CSI might just dampen the efforts.

Did you expect the show to be such a hit?

Of course, every show is a gamble. I did not expect the show to be such a hit. Every producer has no guarantee that his films or TV shows would achieve success, whether in the box office or in the award-giving bodies.

What made you decide to produce films in the first place?

Well, it's simple as this. I love films, I love storytelling. I love music and I love pictures. I want to be part of it all. Fortunately for me, I'm also good at organizing. So this simple equation landed me a job as a producer (laughs). I produce and I love it!

What's your favorite among the films that you have made?

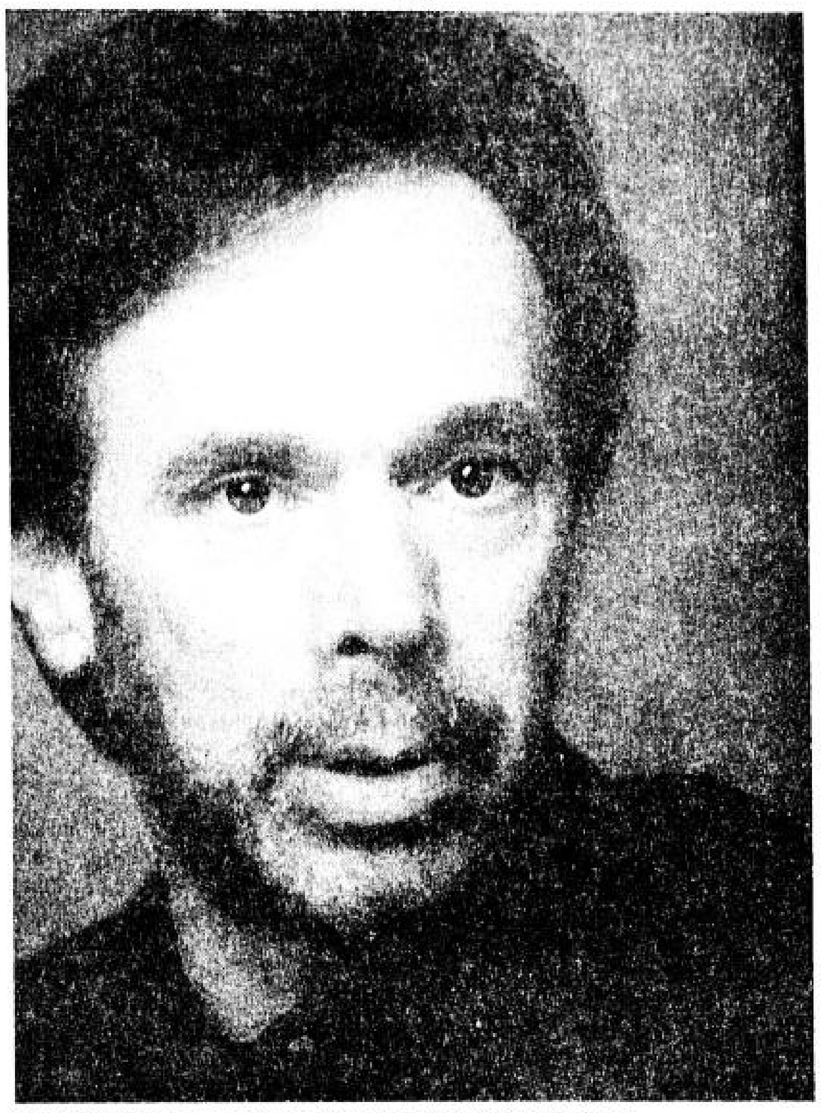
I can't answer that. It's like choosing who is your favorite among your children. Every film that I produce has its own merits and qualities that make it special.

What's next for you?

Well, I am producing another series for CBS. It's reality TV and it's titled "Amazing Race." Then, we're in the process of wrapping up three films, first of which is "Down and Under" with Jerry O'Connell and Christopher Walken, "Black Sheep" with Chris Rock and Anthony Hopkins, and "Black Hawk Down" with Josh Hartnett and Tom Sizemore.

What's your advice to young aspiring producers?

There's one thing that I always keep in mind: There's no job that's too small for somebody no matter what your background is. One should be hardworking. It's not enough that you have the right credentials, that you have a college degree tucked under your belt. One should learn the rudiments of everything in filmmaking. One should start at entry level, you know, from the bottom. I myself started from the bottom. It is good for young producers to persevere, but one should also learn to self-evaluate. Finances are also important. Self-evaluation is a must. *Mico del Rosario*



IN LOVE. "I produce films and I love it," says Bruckheimer.

Where simians rule over humans

By Emmie G. Velarde

MAN AND BEAST. Astronaut Mark Wahlberg is subdued by ape military leader Tim Roth.

EVEN in a world of articulate apes, babes in high places—although their fashion sense is, well, hair-raising—sport the best-shaped eyebrows. As added distinction, being the daughter of a simian senator, Helena Bonham-Carter even gets away with a perilous advocacy and a British accent.

She helps an intriguing new human "catch" escape a life of slavery in her world where apes—try to say "monkeys' and you're bananas—rule over humans. This new catch is an astronaut who crash-landed in the planet while searching for his trainee-chimp. The animal had been dispatched in a space pod from the mother ship to measure the magnitude of an electromagnetic storm.

I will be grateful all my life that Twentieth Century-Fox vetoed a love scene between Bonham-Carter's human-loving she-ape and Mark Wahlberg's ape-loving he-man in this remake of the 1968 sci-fi box-office hit.

I couldn't have survived such a scene, at least not as calmly as I did a 15-minute break right in middle of the first screening at Cinema 8 of SM South Mall (reel was late).

I stepped out for popcorn and wondered if I should go back in for the second half, since I was running late for a next appointment. I made a decision on the basis of two considerations: First, Tim Burton's "Planet of the Apes" is listed as one of Hollywood's "big guns of summer" this year, at $190 million costing more than "Tomb Raider" ($160 million) and "The Mummy Returns" ($150 million). Second, I couldn't not know if Mark Wahlberg and I would ever breathe the air in the same universe again.

Giving what we missed

Speaking of respiratory functions, this film is not for people who are sensitive to animal hair or dust. There's too much filthy fur flying, and too much running around on unpaved grounds—although sensitivity to animal rights is underscored in a darkly humorous sort of way.

Trust Tim Burton to deliver, as Wahlbeg puts it, "many things people missed out on, in the 1968 version."

In a way, this is inevitable. Thirty-three years has done a lot to undermine man's relationship with his environment and fellow inhabitants. On the other hand, animal activist heroes—like the late Diane Fossey, immortalized in "Gorillas in the Mist," or even Discovery Channel—have accrued an inestimable wealth of knowledge about homo sapien's suspected next of kin.

In other words, Burton had a gold mine of insights to draw from, which probably wasn't available to the former movie's makers.

Jokey

The humor is integral to the package and possibly, for those who enjoyed Burton's "Sleepy Hollow" two years ago, myself included, it is an impetus to come check out this "Planet."

Of "Sleepy Hollow," also a remake, the director had stressed: "This isn't a jokey movie; it's not a campy movie—it's serious. But there's humor in it, I think."

That this description is equally applicable to his other works—"Edward Scissorhands," "Ed Wood," and now, "Planet of the Apes"—shows that Burton favors such an approach.

So here, he makes the ruling apes get caught up in lustful desires, jealousy, rage, tenderness, or compassion, even nobility. Then suddenly they hiss, show fangs, and fly off the handle, somersault, leap or swing from vine to vine.

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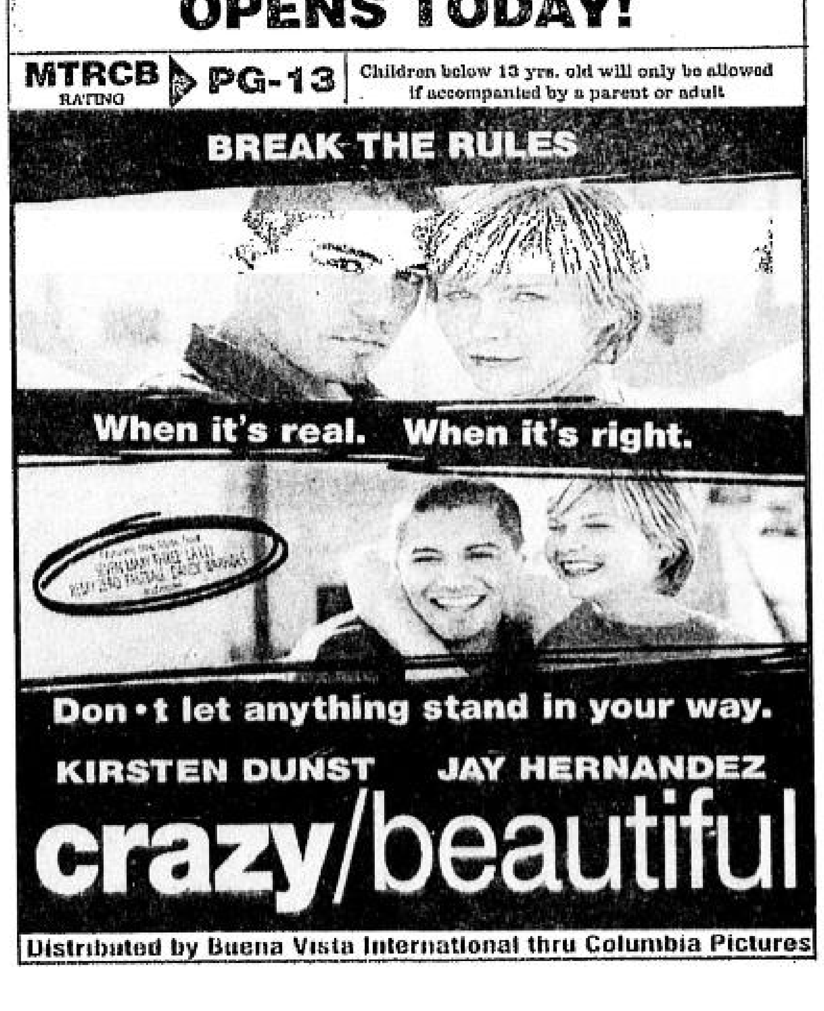

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2	SHREK
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SEX MEDUSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TUHOG/ RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	VENUS
ROBEN	IRA
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	IRA
QUEZON-1	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR-2	PLANET OF THE APES
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHREK
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IRA
CINEMA-2	VENUS
CINEMA-3	ANIMAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	RADYO
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	COOL DUDES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SHREK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHREK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-12	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	CRAZY/ BEATIFUL
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	SHREK
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WALANG MATIGAS NA PUTO . . .
CINEMA-2	BLOODY WISH
CINEMA-4	HAPDI SA TAG-INIT

Anton Juan play

ALIW Awards best director winner Anton Juan stages the Philippine premiere of "Mithi," the Filipino translation of British playwright Sarah Kane's controversial play, "Crave."

"Mithi" will be presented by Dulaang UP with the British Council. It is translated by Ony de Leon.

The production features Mailes Kanapi, Harlene Bautista, Olga Natividad, Lorenz Martinez, Ony de Leon and the Dulaang UP Ensemble.

Assistant director is Dexter Santos. Lighting director is Amiel Y. Leonardia.

"Crave" runs from Aug. 22 to Sept. 9, with 7 p.m. shows on weekdays and 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. shows on weekends, at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman.

For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Dulaang UP at 920-5301, local 7450 or 924-8589.

Freestyle performs at Padi's

PADI'S Mindave Restaurant bar along Mindanao Qvenue, Quezon City, presents Freestyle in special concerts tonight and on Aug. 27.

Honored by MTV as best new artist for Year 2000, Freestyle is one of the hottest pop and R&B bands in the local music scene today.

The group has three best-selling albums which include such hits as "So Slow," "Bakit Iniwan Na," "Before I Let You Go," "Good Luv," "Till I Found You," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "This Time," "Missing You" and "Para sa 'Iyo."

Formed by Ateneo de Davao students in 1996, Freestyle came to Manila in 1998 and inked a contract with Viva-Neo Records.

The band is composed of Jinky Vidal on vocals, Top Suzara on vocals and rhythm guitars, Gerald Banzon on drums, Carlo Tapia on bass and Nikki Cabardo on keyboards.

Padi's Mindave owner, Palanca Award-winning writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores, announces that the Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Umpil) will hold a poetry reading night at the 150-seat open-air garden on the 3rd floor of the restaurant-bar on Aug. 27.

For details about the Freestyle concerts, call 453-0080 or 414-4930.

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Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

When they were young

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN **Jennifer Lopez** was growing up in the Bronx, the guys in her neighborhood called her La Guitarra—because her body was shaped like a guitar!

For his part, **Tom Cruise**'s growing-up memory is of how his older sisters and their friends sat him on top of the kitchen sink—and would practice their lips-to-lips kissing techniques on him!

In the 1980s, **Russell Crowe** wasn't an actor but a wannabe rock 'n' roll singer named Russ Le Roc!

When she was an adolescent, **Angelina Jolie** had a crush on—Mr. Spock!

Josh Harnett auditioned for a role in "Dawson's Creek" six times, and kept getting turned down! But he refused to give up, and now, thanks to "Pearl Harbor," he's the new, young movie leading man of the year.

Brad Pitt also had a hard time getting his career started. One year, things got so bad that he was forced to accept a job that required him to squeeze into a chicken mascot suit and stand outside a Pollo Loco restaurant in Los Angeles.

No, that's *not* how he got discovered for the movies—but it did put food on the table, at a time when he needed it most!

Natalie Portman is so lovely and talented that she's always gotten offered the best roles for adolescent and teen actresses—but she's also turned down a surprisingly large number of them.

Some of the plum roles she's passed up include the title character in "Lolita," the Juliet part in **Baz Luhrmann**'s "Romeo and Juliet," and the role that **Christina Ricci** eventually played in "The Ice Storm."

Character of the Month

THIS September, Cartoon Network will feature Dexter as its Character of the Month. Dexter is a scientific genius who spends many hours in his own laboratory, creating staggering inventions that stun the world.

His show, "Dexter's Laboratory" (Sundays at 9 a.m. starting Sept. 2) is an innovative half-hour series on the life of the boy genius, and on the interference of his free-spirited big sister, Dee Dee.

Mareng Winnie on AM radio

MARENG Winnie Monsod has begun hosting her new morning talk show on radio with Cito Beltran, "Talakayang Winnie at Cito," 6 to 8 a.m., Monday to Friday.

This is a good move on the station's part, because Winnie and Cito are responsible anchors and commentators, unlike many others who shoot from the lip, without sufficient research, analysis and objectivity.

Regular segments include "Pambungad Balita" (news and current issues), "Ano'ng Say ni Mareng Winnie" (Winnie's opinions), "Exposé" (inside reports on anomalies), "Pwera Pikon" (humorous commentary) and "Toss Coin" (debate).

We know of another insightful person who was also offered an important and influential early-morning radio show, but turned it down because he didn't want to get up at the break of dawn. Well, Winnie doesn't seem to mind, so many *masa* listeners can now benefit from her informed commentaries.

TV treats

AUGUST 24 at 7 p.m. on Star Movies, "Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope." Aug. 26 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Phantom Menace."

Aug. 28 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "First Comes Love" has **John Stamos** playing an ambitious man engaged to his boss' daughter. When he meets the curator of a museum desperate for funding, he reevaluates his life and reorders his priorities.

Aug. 29 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "T-Force" is about a robotic law-enforcement team forced to fight for its own survival. Starring **Jack Scalia** and **Erin Gray**.

Aug. 30 at 11:15 p.m. on Star Movies: "Too Good to Be True" is about a successful author who plunges into a passionate love affair. But his life turns into a nightmare when a series of tragic events ensues, starting with the death of his disabled son.

Where simians rule over humans

(From page A23)

Many of these moments are not "jokey" and in fact some are commendable illustrations of extensive research. Still, instead of leaving me thoughtful, they cracked me up through the end, after the element of surprise had long passed.

Reward

For the pleasure of working with his namesake, character actor Tim Roth, a great talent in any role, waived not only immediate audience identification, but also a sumptuous role in the upcoming "Harry Potter" film. Little did he know that this meant, among other things, three hours in the makeup chair, before every shooting day even started.

I must concede that the makeup and bodysuits are impressive. Roth confesses: "You get depressed by the makeup sometimes because you can't get out of it. It's not like you can take it off at lunchtime."

But he says he saw the bright side. "The earliest call I had was 3 a.m., but some people got 2:30 pickups."

His reward, from where I sat: the role of Thade, most fearsome warrior-ape and the best-outfitted of them all in softly gleaming leather with the shiniest metal studs, plus THX sound effects with each appearance and as many tight shots as Bonham-Carter. But the prize part of the job in his words: "The human association with chimpanzees is, 'Aren't they cute?' I liked the idea of turning that on its head."

Perverse pleasure

I had known beforehand that this was the point of the original manuscript: for us humans to realize our own primate ways. But engrossed as I was in the Burton-esque elements, the message went over my head until the last few minutes.

Wahlberg's astronaut, having found a way out of the problematic planet, crash-lands again (who trained this guy?) this time on the steps on what 20th century earthlings remember as the Lincoln Monument in Washington D.C. There he finds the image of Thade the Warrior-Ape enthroned, instead of Good Old Abe's.

Johnny Depp, who played the lead role in Burton's "Sleepy Hollow," remembers: "Tim (Burton) gets sort of perverse enjoyment . . . seeing people in funny situations, especially people that he knows really well. I think he finds it hilarious."

The last look on Wahlberg's face, as chimps in police uniforms alight from patrol cars, is that of someone who doesn't get the joke. Me, I find that last touch a little too realistic for comfort.

NOTED singers-composers of Saga: (from left) Mike Hanopol, Rey Valera, Freddie Aguilar, Vehnee Saturno.

Saga album now comes with free VCD

SAGA, Original Pilipino Music's unique and celebrated group, goes full blast in their nationwide promotional activities for their debut album, "Ang Aming Awit." After months of solo performances to nurture their individual careers, this new kind of "boy band" composed of noted singers-composers—Freddie Aguilar, Mike Hanopol, Vehnee Saturno and Rey Valera—gather again to showcase their collective musical genius to the new generation of music lovers.

Now music aficionados are getting a really special treat when they buy the special edition of their album which is now in a smarter, glossy package.

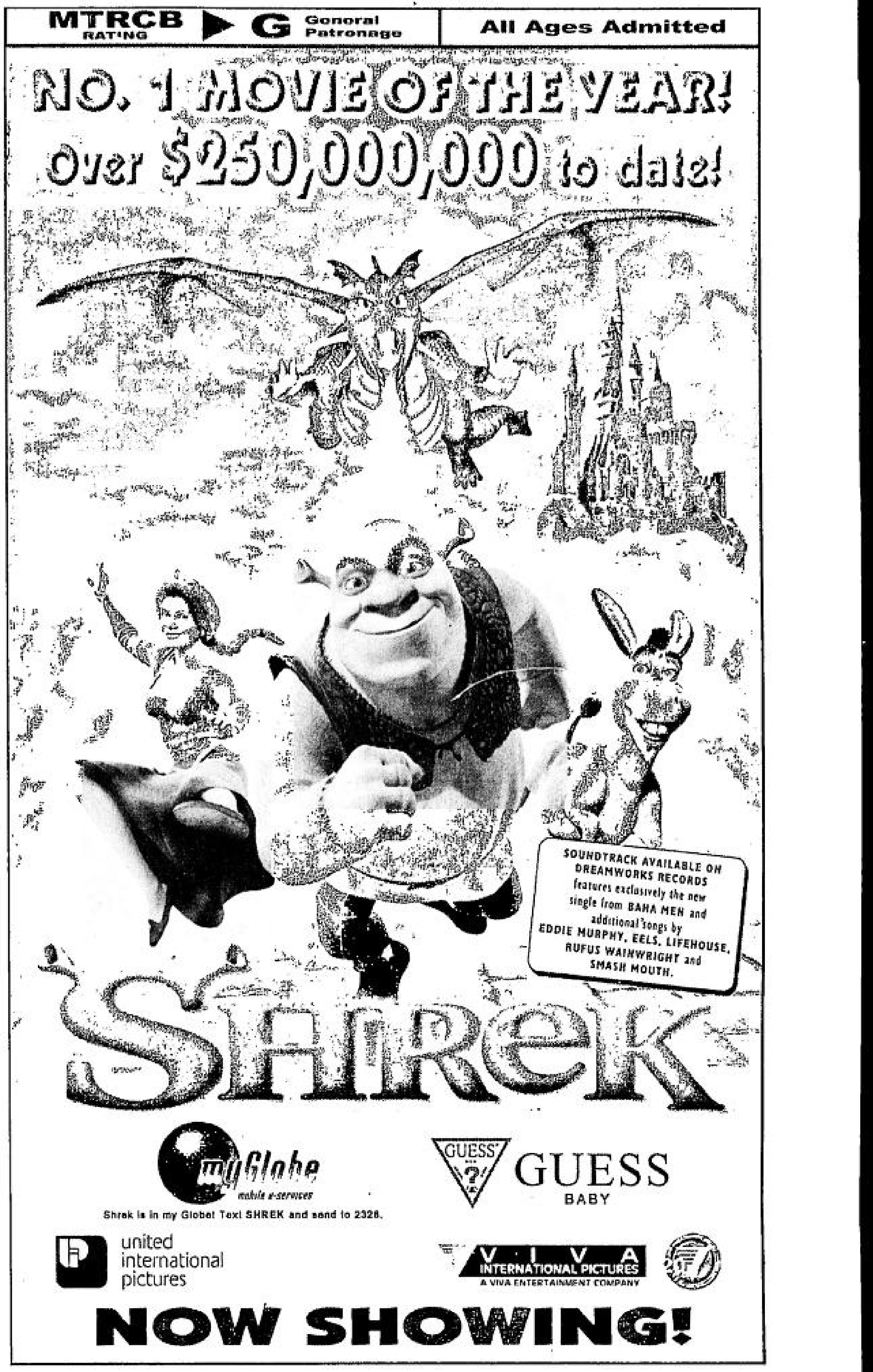
Concorde Records and Asiatec Music Productions recently released a free VCD that comes with every purchase of Saga's compact disc for a bargain price of P250.

The 45-minute VCD contains their brand-new music video, "Ang Aking Awit," with some unreleased footages of their MTV shoot and some interviews with the four icons regarding their views about the group, their music and their debut album.

Also included are their live performances culled from their highly successful album launch at the Audiotorium last March.

Saga's debut album adds another feather to their individual and collective caps. It features the hit single, "Ang Aking Awit," a Vehnee Saturno original; the second single "Para Kang Asukal," a love song from Rey; the hard driving "Anak ng Jeproks" of Freddie; and the reggae-inspired song of Mike, "Darating Din ang Araw Mo."

The collectible special limited edition of "Saga—Ang Aming Awit" is now available at all SM Record Bars, Odyssey Record outlets, New Radio City and other music stores nationwide.



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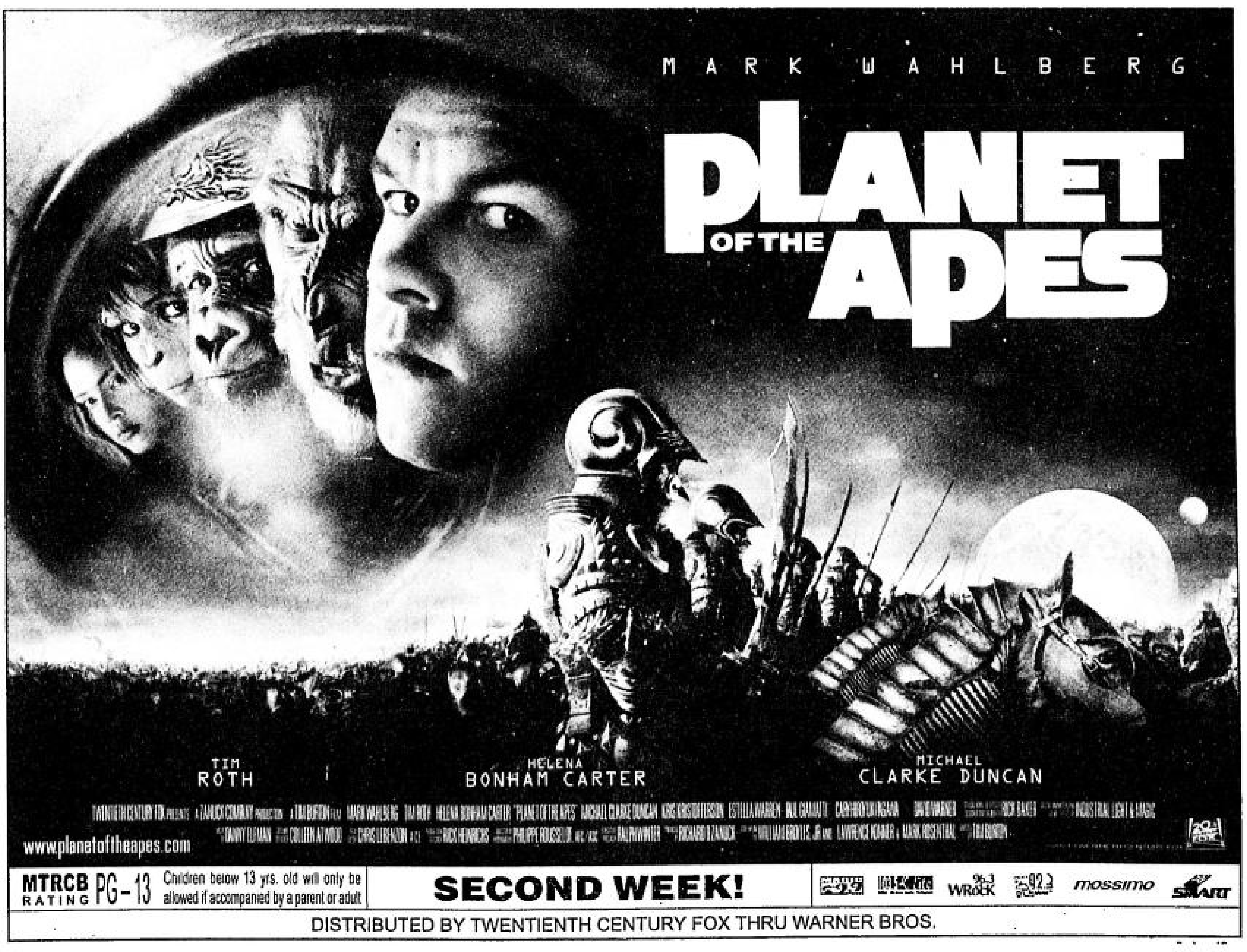

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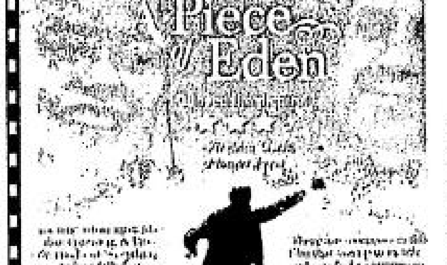

A romantic comedy from the acclaimed director of Frances, Words and Bang the Drum Slowly, with Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
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A Piece of Eden
A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tredici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of Frances, Weeds and Bang the Drum Slowly, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.
"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer
"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diane Laird, Author

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Judy Ann or Cogie? Neither, says Piolo

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SOONER or later in the career of most popular Filipino actors, they are confronted with painful gossip about their sexuality.

The likes of **Diether Ocampo, Rico Yan, Marvin Agustin, Jomari Yllana, Richard Gomez,** even **Christopher de Leon** and **Phillip Salvador** in their younger years have had to defend themselves against rumors that 'hey're gay.

The latest victim is **Piolo Pascual.**

Chances are, when a young actor has been getting good breaks, like Piolo, he becomes grist for the gossip mill, like Piolo.

Last year, he was linked to fashion designer **Inno Sotto,** who had tapped him to model in the latter's fashion shows.

The latest talk links Piolo to another young actor, **Cogie Domingo.**

Piolo has been trying to quell the rumors, making denials both on TV and in print. But now he no longer wants to bend over backward to dignify the talk.

Ironically, Piolo and Cogie have the same manager, **Joji Dingcong,** who says it's unfair that his talents are being subjected to this kind of nastiness.

"Those people just want to destroy the careers of both Piolo and Cogie," Joji says.

A number of people, including his fellow actors, may be envious of Piolo's steady rise in show biz. But the 23-year-old actor is not comfortable equating controversy with popularity.

When polite people don't ask him about the gay issue, they ask him about his relationship with young actress **Judy Ann Santos.**

"Why will I deny it if I'm in a relationship," Piolo says. "There's just nothing to admit about Judy Ann and myself because we're really just friends and partners on TV and the movies. When you love, you don't plan it."

Piolo and Judy Ann first teamed up in the box-office hit, "Kahit Isang Saglit," which inspired ABS-CBN to cast them in a primetime soap series, "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka."

The success of their tandem led Star Cinema to give them a second project, the romance-drama "Bakit 'Di Totohanin?"

Piolo's present success is actually the result of his second shot at stardom. He did TV commercials when he was still a teener and he even hosted a children's TV show.

He was part of Star Circle's Batch 3 with **Bojo Molina, Carlos Agassi, Kaye Abad** and **Paolo Contis.** Unlike his batchmates, however, Piolo didn't enjoy instant popularity because he migrated to the United States with his family after only six months with ABS-CBN.

In late 1999, he was convinced to return to the Philippines and give show biz another try. Last year came his biggest acting break when he played the lead in **Mel Chionglo**'s "Lagarista."

The success of "Lagarista" at the tills made Piolo a popular new lead, with his lethal combination of good looks and acting talent.

Piolo has since been making all the right moves. Star Cinema signed him up to a five-picture contract. Starting with "Esperanza," he went on to make other films, including "Mila," where he played the love interest of **Maricel Soriano.**

He also plays a pivotal part as an NPA rebel in the **Chito Roño** period drama "Dekada '70," where he pits acting talents with **Vilma Santos** and Christopher de Leon.

Piolp joined theater groups in school. At the University of Santo Tomas where he went to college for two years, he auditioned with Teatro Tomasino.

"I love acting," he says. "For me, it's like second skin. I'm extremely happy with what I'm doing.

"I gave up my career once, but now that everything seems to be going well for me, I'm not about to leave show biz again. I waited long for this. This is what I really want to do."

In "Bakit 'Di Totohanin?," directed by **Boots Plata** from a screenplay by **Dindo Perez,** Piolo plays a boxer who trains Judy Ann and later falls for her.

NOTHING between Piolo and Judy Ann. "There's nothing to admit."

The movie also stars **Vic Vargas, Johnny Delgado, Gloria Diaz** and **Jeffrey Quizon.**

Piolo expresses a desire to portray "challenging" roles which border on the dark and twisted. He says he thinks of **Gary Oldman** and **Robin Williams** when he plays such characters.

Clearer signal

IF YOU'RE driving in Metro Manila traffic, you'll have an easier, cooler time if you listen to easy-listening music in your car.

My own choice is Wave 89.1, the newest station on the FM band. What I like about Wave is its uninterrupted laid-back music, with no chatty DJs making a recitation before playing a selection, or even talking when a record has started to play.

Early this month, I complained to Wave's Joe d' Mango about the station's bad signal. He said it was probably because Wave was still using the old transmitter of 89-DMZ in Tandang Sora, from the sequestered IBC 13 studios.

But the following day, I got clear Wave transmission on my car radio.

Joe says Wave has purchased a new transmitter which will be installed in the Muñoz area in Quezon City before the end of the year. That way, Wave listeners will get a constantly clear signal.

Joe also informed me that Wave has hit its target. A recent coincidental car radio survey showed Wave was No. 2 in owner-driven cars after only three months.

Wave was launched last February, so it's practically only six months on the air. Yet, the station has given other channels on the FM band a run for their money and listeners.

Real Brockovich continues to fight her battles

WASHINGTON—Yes, the real Erin Brockovich really does dress like that.

"My dress code is not designed to offend anybody," said the cleavage-revealing clerk whose legal crusade against Pacific Gas and Electric Co. was made into last year's hit movie starring Julia Roberts in the title role. "It's just the way I dress. I don't deliberately use it as a tool to get what I'm looking for."

Speaking before the National Press Club, Brockovich—wearing a tight, low-cut black lace top under a jacket—was as brash and plain-talking Thursday as portrayed by Roberts' in her Academy Award-winning performance.

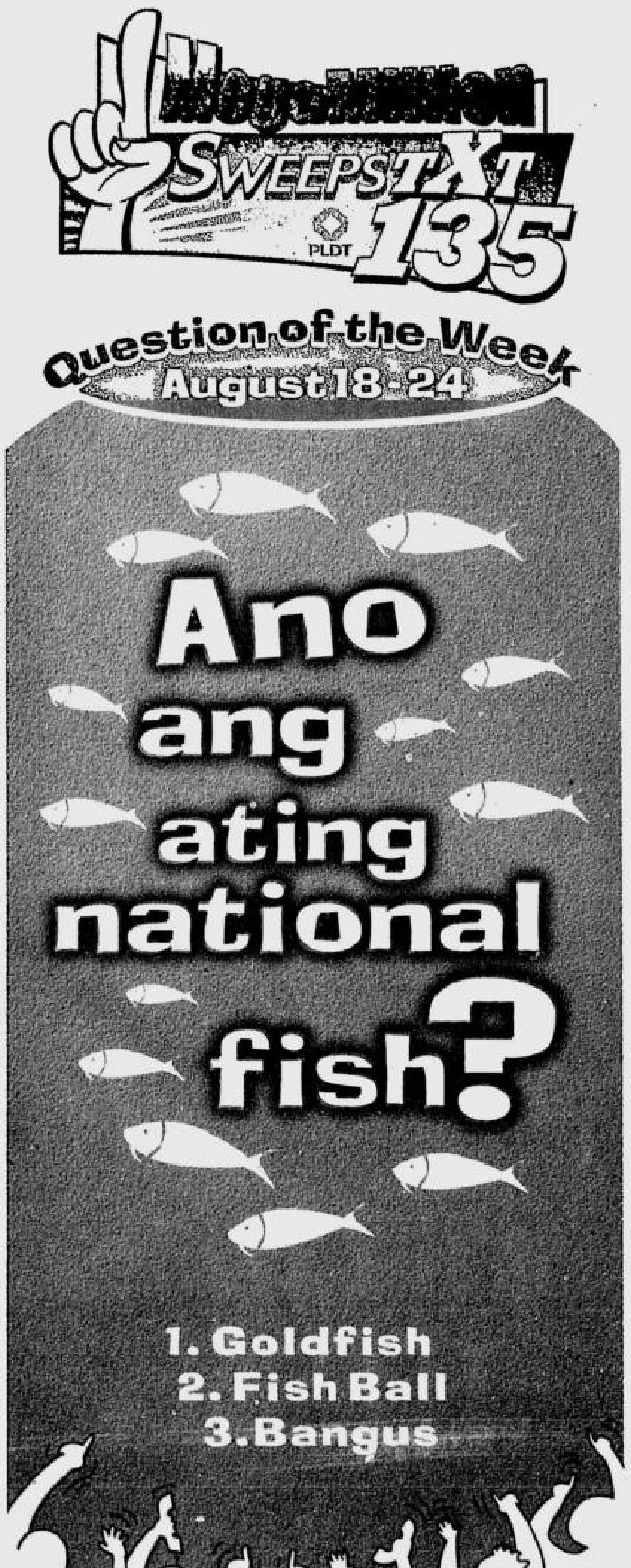
The movie "Erin Brockovich" was based on her experience as a down-on-her-luck single mom who bullied her way into a menial job in a small law firm, only to turn her curiosity about illnesses in a California desert town into the largest-ever environmental settlement.

More than 600 people, alleging that PG&E tanks leaked high concentrations of toxic chromium 6 into their ground water, won a $333-million settlement from the utility.

"If you think for one minute while I was doing this litigation that I ever stopped to ponder, to think, 'Hey, this case is going to settle for $333 million, they're going to make a movie about it, Julia Roberts is going to play me, they're going to name it Erin Brockovich, and I'm going to get a $2-million bonus to boot,' I would have been committed," she said.

Since the 1996 settlement, 50 original plaintiffs have died, as well as 51 employees of the utility, Brockovich said, implying toxic pollution was the cause.

Now Brockovich directs environmental research at the law firm of Masry and Vititoe, where more than 100,000 people have visited the website to report other potential toxic sites. Brockovich also gives lectures even as she battles toxic mold in her home. *AP*



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   - Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
     Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.
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ENGINE OIL
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BOI-listed investments surge 400%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INVESTMENTS grew nearly 400 percent in the first seven months this year as top telecommunication firms stepped up their expansion plans to meet rising demand for mobile communications.

Emboldened by the glowing figures, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the Board of Investments was well on its way to surpassing its investment projections for the year.

With still five months to go in the year, the BOI has already surpassed its initial P50-billion target for the full year, which it has recently raised to P100 billion. At its current pace, Roxas said the BOI was poised to surpass the P100-billion mark this year with keen interest by local and foreign investors on information technology-related projects, telecommunications, infrastructure and services.

The BOI had earlier set a modest investment target for the year considering the political uncertainty and the projected slowdown in the economy.

The BOI yesterday reported that investments surged by 397.44 percent to P86.88 billion from January to July this year from P17.44 billion during the same period last year. Roughly 55 percent or P47.9 billion worth of investments were for telecommunication projects.

The BOI's investment tally was boosted by Globe Telecom Inc.'s P39.73-billion expansion project and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.'s P8.17-billion mobile phone project that were registered last month.

Globe wanted to boost capacity to more than 7 million by December 2003 to meet the rapid growth of mobile phone subscribers and a hankering for better services. It will spend P25.82 billion in cash and borrow P14 billion to install nearly 1,000 new cell sites, 37 base stations, and 17 mobile switching centers over the next two and half years.

Digitel's investment program would allow the Gokongwei franchise to dip into the highly competitive cellular phone business currently dominated by Globe and Smart Communications Inc., which was also granted incentives for its P17.1-billion expansion program.

Based on equity investments, local investors jacked up their capital spending by 1,725.37 percent to P41 billion compared to the P14.3 billion worth of equity registered by foreign investors (up by 217.29 percent from last year).

Roxas said the substantial rise in registered investments in the first seven months this year was a testament to investors' continued confidence in the Macapagal administration. He cited the wide dispersal of these investments in key areas outside Metro Manila as encouraging because "this is the key toward a more balanced development that will create more jobs and generate more opportunities for a greater number of Filipinos."

INDICATORS

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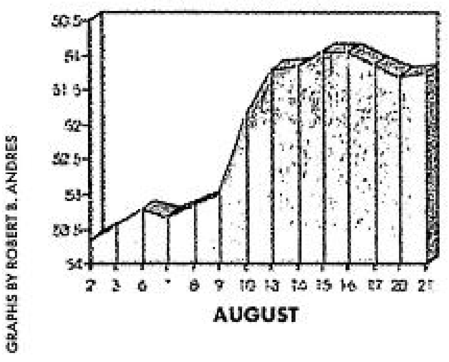

Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m.,
August 21, 2001

¥ 120.44 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.44 as of 5 p.m.,
August 21, 2001

GOLD:$276.60/277.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 21, 2001

STOCK MARKET

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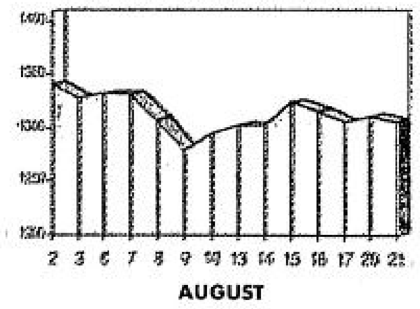


(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares end lower

SHARES ended lower yesterday in an otherwise lackluster session on profit-taking in select blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 4.47 points, or 0.3 percent, at 1,306.66, after gaining 0.4 percent Monday.

Turnover fell to P342.06 million from Monday's P995.03 million, which was boosted by cross sales. Losers outnumbered gainers, 36 to 28, while 46 issues were unchanged.

Most investors chose to stay on the sidelines ahead of the scheduled US Federal Open Market Committee meeting later Tuesday, with financial markets largely discounting a 0.25-percentage-point cut in key US interest rates, traders said. *AP*

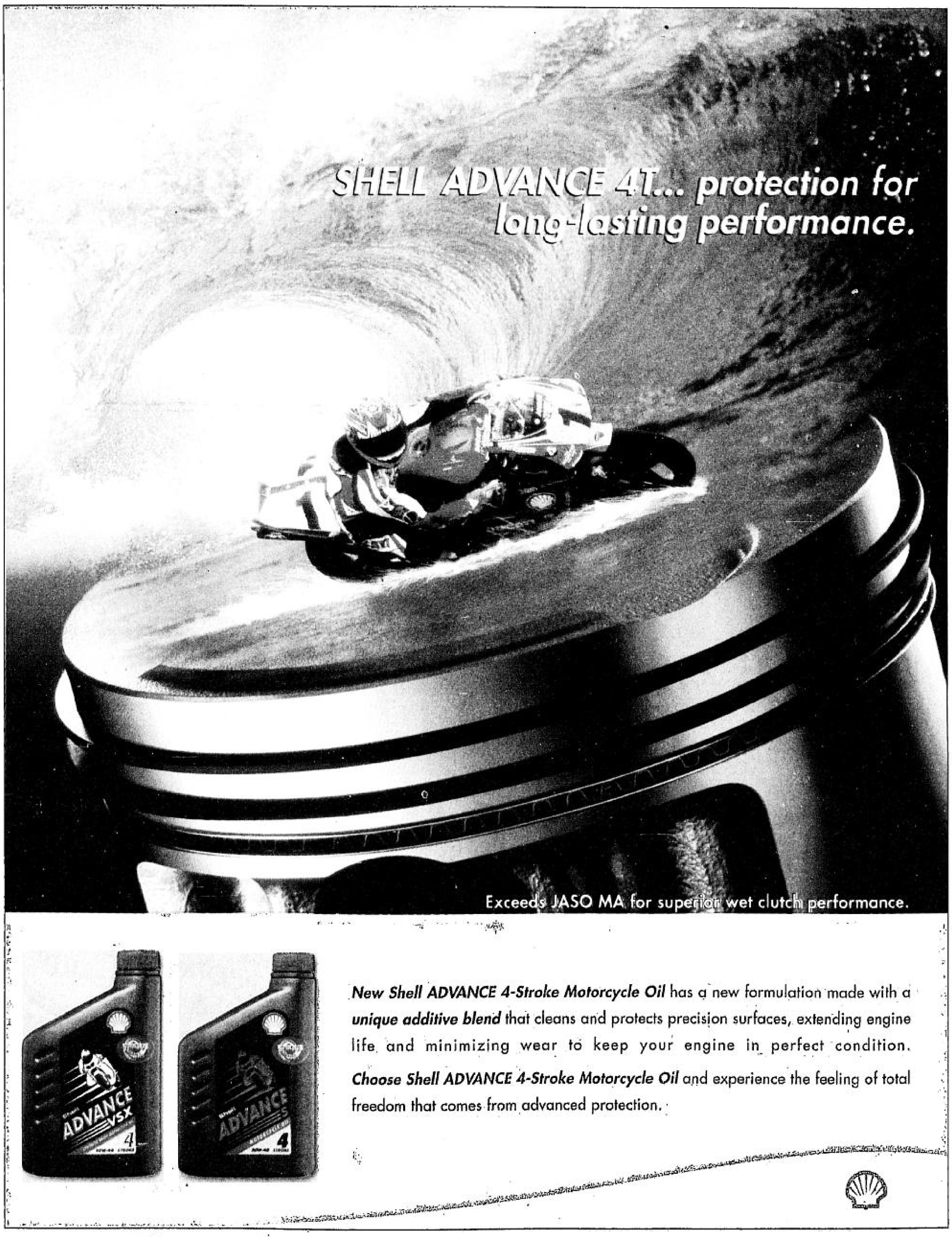
US firm to invest in RP

A $5-BILLION US insurance company has bucked dire economic predictions for the country by vowing to put in more than P1 billion in investments and establishing its regional headquarters in Manila.

W.R. Berkley Corp., the parent company of Berkley International and Family First Inc., announced early this week that the Philippines has "terrific business opportunities."

William R. Berkley, chair, president and

US/B7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'Discounts' offered to delinquent taxpayers

By Clarissa S. Batino

INSTEAD of entering into protracted legal cases, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has offered delinquent taxpayers and bankrupt firms a 60- to 90-percent discount on their tax liabilities as part of its new compromise plan.

In a new regulation, the BIR agreed to collect only 40 percent even from individuals and companies whose tax liabilities were doubtful.

Insolvent companies and those with zero or a negative net worth or had been non-operational for at least three years will only have to settle 10 percent of their assessed tax liabilities, according to the new regulation.

Persons without jobs and those whose only source of income is from employment with a monthly salary of P10,500 or P21,000 for married couples need only to pay 10 percent of their liabilities.

The compromise rate of 40 percent for delinquent taxpayers may even be negotiable, according to the BIR.

The BIR, however, excluded from availing of the compromise rate companies sued for criminal tax fraud, including Fortune Tobacco Corp. of beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan and Best World Resources Corp. of Estrada ally Dante Tan.

The government has filed a P25-billion tax evasion case against Fortune Tobacco. It is assessing P40 billion worth of taxes on the Marcos estate and P1 billion on Best World.

The BIR said these cases were pending in different courts.

The new policy was one of several regulations that the BIR started implementing this month.

The BIR earlier doubled to 20 percent of their salaries the withholding taxes slapped on entertainers and professional athletes.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said these measures should make tax collection more efficient and would boost the agency's revenue efforts starting this year.

Bañez has expressed confidence the BIR will be able to collect over P388 billion worth of taxes this year, although it is already running P13.3 billion short of its target.

The agency's continuing reform measures should help it meet its target this year, which has already been scaled down by 5 percent from the original P408 billion, he said.

In the first seven months of the year, the BIR collected only P229.676 billion compared with a target of P242.991 billion. To meet its target, the agency would have to collect at least P158.3 billion from this month to December, traditionally a lean tax-collection season.

DOF chief to pursue either new tax system or car tax overhaul

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said yesterday it would pursue either a shift to a gross modified tax system or an overhaul of the country's taxes on the auto industry to augment the government's tax revenue.

Either measure would give the government at least P9 billion and complement a proposed adjustment in excise taxes on beer and tobacco products so there was no need to pursue both, a senior DoF official, who sought anonymity, told reporters,

The adjustment in excise taxes on beer and tobacco products is expected to generate some P10 billion in tax revenue.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was said to have made two presentations to Congress and was undecided which of the tax measures to choose.

Camacho earlier said he would pursue all three measures before Congress.

Two ranking finance officials said Camacho was torn between shifting to the gross modified tax system and redefining the tax structure for the auto industry. The government was seeking to lift the exemption from excise taxes given to manufacturers of Asian-utility vehicles.

A person familiar with the matter said the first presentation was focused on an increase in so-called sin taxes to factor in inflation and a shift to a gross modified tax system. The other presentation included an increase in sin taxes and the redefinition of the auto taxation structure, he said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Ex-DOF chief bats for leaner gov't

FORMER Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo has asked Malacañang to consider streamlining the government bureaucracy to contain its ballooning budget deficit.

In an interview, De Ocampo, now president of the Asian Institute of Management, said the difficult economic conditions merited the much-delayed implementation of the streamlining program hand in hand with the President's call to reduce the high salaries of top government officials.

"I had expected that the President would call for a streamlining of the bureaucracy during her State of the Nation Address. I was surprised that she instead called for the expansion of the bureaucracy," De Ocampo said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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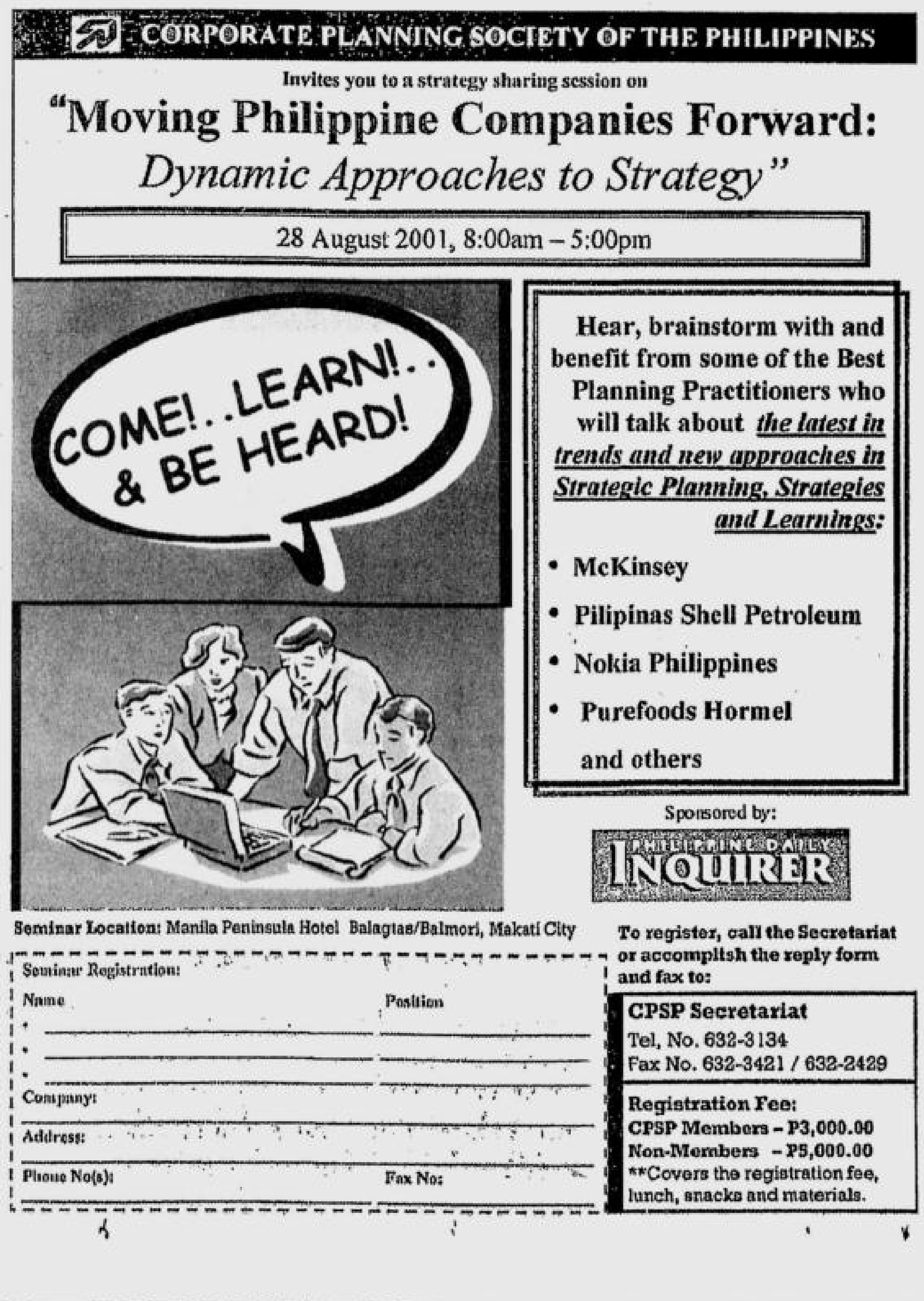

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LRT-2 to start running in 2003

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH most of its right-of-way problems now settled, the Light Rail Transit Administration has resumed construction of the P24-billion Light Rail Transit 2 project.

Project proponents said that LRT-2 would start running by the first quarter of 2003.

Construction of the project was originally scheduled for completion this year but the right-of-way problems resulted in a two-year delay.

"The Pasig Regional Trial Court recently settled some of our right-of-way problems so we can now proceed with the construction," Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad told the INQUIRER in an interview.

After about five years of negotiations, the Lucio Tan group finally allowed the Light Rail Transit Administration to use the properties owned by Tan's Foremost Farms and Himmel Industries. The agreement was finally signed on July 31. It requires proponents of the project to pay the Lucio Tan group P128 million for the cost buildings to be demolished.

LRTA was also able to get back properties occupied by the Old Sampaloc Market and Acme Steel, along with the Bolipata properties. This enabled the company to proceed with construction activities in the area.

The LRT 2 project involves the construction of a 14-kilometer line running from Santolan in Pasig to Recto in Manila via Marcos Highway, Aurora, Magsaysay, and Legarda Avenues.

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF AUGUST 22, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8 M/ 2.1 M *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	740,000	750 000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/110,000 *
CAPITOL HILLS	130 000	135 000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200 000	215 000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350 000	400 000/450 000*/700 000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230 000	240,000/330 000*/450 000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	350 000/400 000 *
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180 000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	780 000/850 000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600 000 **	260,000/425 000 *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	220,000	230 000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	230,000/400 000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	600 000
STA. ELENA GOLF	1,600,000	1,650 000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/650 000
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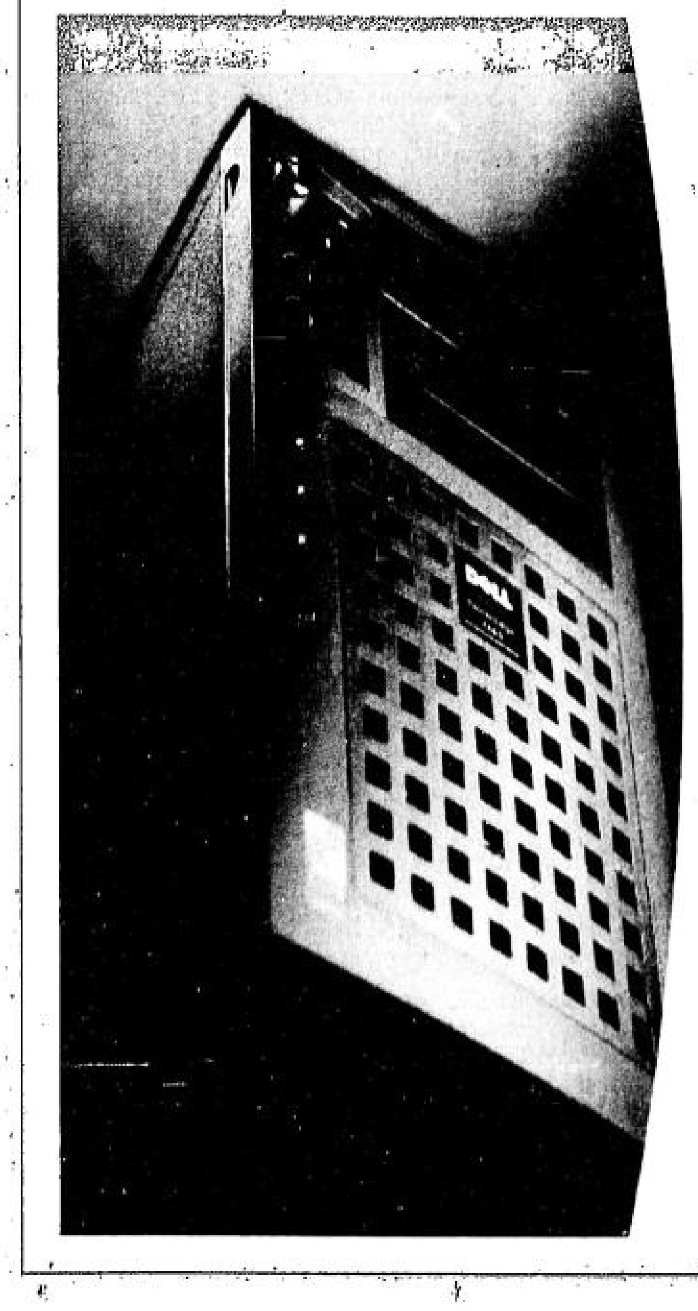

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Marketing success secrets told in PMA marketing book

WHAT if the country's marketing gurus told their secrets to success? It would probably feel like going through a crash course in advanced marketing – definitely a valuable experience for aspiring businessmen and young marketing practitioners. This is what the Philippine Marketing Association offers in a book it recently launched titled "Marketing Shift: From Basics to Breakthroughs". This volume compiles personal accounts, insights and strategic learnings of veteran marketers and entrepreneurs from successful corporations.

Among the authors of the PMA book are Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, chair and CEO of Splash Group of Companies; Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO of Cebu Pacific Air; and Josiah Go, president and chief marketing strategist of Mansmith and Fielders Inc.

Dr. Hortaleza delves into the essentials of launching a new product category and how to penetrate a market dominated by giant brands. He traces the humble beginnings of the Splash beauty care line, which introduced product innovations to the facial care market. Capitalizing on the effectiveness of Extraderm Exfoliant, its first introduced astringent, the company set out to compete with the major facial cleansers. With strategic product pricing, placement and distribution and promotion, Extradem Exfoliant captured a broad market share and became a household name among Filipinas. Dr. Hortaleza relates that Splash's corporate strategy is primarily anchored on pioneering innovative products that provide utmost customer satisfaction.

Crisis marketing is probably one of the toughest and most challenging experiences in any business. Lance Gokongwei of Cebu Pacific Air attests to this and recalls the trials he had to surmount in connection to the controversial crash of one of its carriers in February 1998. Prior to this, Cebu Pacific enjoyed a notable market share and was popular for being a "low-fare, great-value and on-time" airline. How the company handled the crisis is an inspiring story of teamwork and sincere commitment to customers.

Josiah Go, editor of the PMA book, writes an integrating article that discusses the current shifts in marketing direction. His chapter focuses on the basic principles of marketing and the recent trends in the industry. He emphasizes on product value advantage as a fundamental marketing basic that can lead to success if coupled with innovative approaches and applications.

PMA's "Marketing Shift: From Basics to Breakthroughs" takes a serious look at the dynamic marketplace that requires scientific and creative moves and responses. It is available at all National Bookstores nationwide.

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LUCENT SPONSORS GLOBE'S ACADEMIC AWARDS

Telecoms and networking solutions company Lucent Technologies was one of the major sponsors in the recent concluded 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). GTAAA is Globe's core social responsibility program aimed at promoting student excellence in telecommunications and information technology. This year's GTAAA overall awardee is Jinoe M. Gavan, an ECE graduate from the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod. He was joined by 15 other college awardees from Mindanao, Visayas and the National Capital Region. Meanwhile, there were 19 awardees for the high school level. Signing the sponsorship agreement were (from left) Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima, Lucent Technologies Phils. president Gregg Marshall and Lucent Technologies Phils. sales director Riza Narvasa.

NPI-ITDI TECHNOLOGY MOA

Nestle Philippines Inc. and DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute (Itdi) recently signed a memorandum of agreement at the Mandarin Hotel. NPI supports Itdi in the development of innovative technology. Itdi will conduct research on finding beneficial uses for scrap materials. Standing (from left) are Severino Bernardo, division chief, material science division, director for research and development; Dr. Araceli M. Monsada, science research specialist II, material science division; Marissa Paglicawan, science specialist II, material science division; Jesus G. Reyes, assistant vice president, NPI and Lawyer Mabini L. Antonio, senior vice president, NPI. Also shown are (seated from left) Dr. Nuna Almazon, director, Itdi-DOST, Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, secretary DOST; Juan B. Santos, chair and CEO of NPI and Pierre Guignard, executive vice president of NPI.

Fries up your life with Jollibee

FASTFOOD leader Jollibee spices up your favorite french fries with two new flavors from Jollibee's "Shake 'Em Fries". This new promo enables customers to enjoy the *langhap-sarap* goodness of french fries in the two regular flavors – barbecue and cheese flavor.

According to Jollibee product manager Lot Legaspi, "Filipinos like to eat french fries as an in-between snack or as a side dish to complement their hamburgers, chicken or spaghetti. That's why we came up with the Jollibee 'Shake 'Em Fries' for our customers to enjoy a new variety of french fries that offer good value for their money."

Each order of "Shake 'Em Fries" comes in a shaker bag filled with regular french fries and a sachet of either the barbecue or cheese flavor depending on the customer's choice. They will just have to immediately slide the fries to the bottom of the bag, sprinkle the flavor of their choice then shake the bag vigorously.

Customers may avail of the Jollibee "Shake 'Em Fries" for P22 as a solo item or an additional P4 as an upgrade option for the Langhap-Sarap burger value meal at Jollibee stores nationwide.

New special edition Bayan Phonecards

BAYANTEL recently released two special edition Bayan PhoneCards featuring Andok's Litson Manok and SM SuperMalls. The Andok's Bayan PhoneCard is available exclusively in all Andok's outlets in Quezon City, Manila and Bicol. For added convenience, all of Andok's outlets located within BayanTel's franchise areas in Metro Manila have a BayanTel payphone.

The SM Bayan PhoneCard is available in all SM department stores in Quezon City and at SM Manila. Go to customer service or look for strategically located SM Card Booths within the malls. The SM Bayan PhoneCard may also be purchased at SM Supermarkets, SM Super Sale Club and Bingo Marts (Quezon City and Manila 24-hour convenience stores). Both special edition cards are available in P100 denominations.

'HEY PRETTY MAMA' BY JOLLIBEE, STARBUST, BARBIE

Cartoon Network paid tribute to mothers last Mother's Day with the 'Hey Pretty Mama' promo, a write-in contest inspired by Cartoon Network's most infamous mama's boy, Johnny Bravo. Jollibee Foods Corp. (JFC), Masterfoods Phils. Inc. (makers of Starbust) and Richwell Trading Corporation (makers of Barbie) sponsored the contest recognizing how important mothers are to Cartoon Network's Filipino audience. Shows was the sponsorship contract signing with (from left) Cecile Gualberto, account manager, McCann Erickson Philippines (representing JFC); Charisse Hernandez, in-market franchise manager–sugar, Master Foods Philippines Inc.; Maye Yao, marketing manager, Richwell Trading Corp.; and Luigi Nunez, executive vice president, Far East Media Consultants, Philippine advertising sales agency of Cartoon Network.

RMN SPONSORS 4AS BOWLAHAN...AGAIN

Radio Mindanao Network, for the second year in a row, is the sole sponsor of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As) annual bowling tournament, Bowlahan. Shown at the contract signing are (from left) Nonna P. Nañagas, president of Image Dimensions and 4As board secretary; Louie Rogacion, vice president for media of Aspac and chair of this year's Bowlahan; Eric Canoy, president, Radio Mindanao Network; Miguel Ramos, president of Aspac and 4As board director and Ed Estrada, vice president of Image Dimensions and co-chair of Bowlahan. This year's Bowlahan will be held at the Coronado Lanes starting Aug. 21

WELCOME
FIRST VIRTUAL WINE TAS G

GALLO AT FIRST VIRTUAL WINE TASTING

The winery of Ernest and Julio Gallo, America's largest wine producer and exporter of world famous fine wines participated in the first ever virtual wine tasting video conference held recently in conjunction with the US Commercial Service in Manila and the US Export Assistance Center in Navato, California. The exercise is, according to George Ruffner, a way for American distributors to link with potential customers without having to travel. Photo shows E and J Gallo's local distributor The Andreson's Group Inc. (AGI) executives with US Commercial Service officials (from left) Sonny Roxas, AGI merchandising supervisor; Lloyd Dizon, AGI Gallo product manager; George Ruffner, US counselor for commercial affairs; Von Hizon, AGI managing director for international brands; Millet Escasinas, AGI regional sales manger; Ed Bargan, vice president of Blue Mountain; Cleo Alday, senior commercial specialist; Bob Bannerman, US commercial attache; and Gerry Francia, AGI VP for sales. Participants from hotel and restaurant chains, supermarkets and the media were treated to an afternoon of wine tasting as Gallo's Julian Chow, marketing manager for Asia Pacific and Scott Kozel, winemaker; served the 1998 Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon and 1996 Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon.

BITS & Clips

PAP confab

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL Association of the Philippines (PAP) will hold its 38th annual convention from Aug. 23 to 25 at the Manila Galleria Suties, ADB Avenue, Pasig City. The theme of this year's convention is "Psychology and Social Transformation." The first two days of the convention will be devoted to the scientific program and will feature two keynote speakers, seven plenary sessions, seven concurrent sessions and an interactive poster presentation session. The third day of the convention will feature a range of continuing education workshops. Call Linda Sevilla at the PAP Secretariat at 453-8257, or e-mail pap2@edsamail.com.ph

WG&A invests US$3M

WG&A Philippines has invested some US$3 million for the purchase of 11 brand new cargo handling equipment. Robert Kearney, WG&A vice president for operations, said this is part of the company's massive equipment re-fleeting and rehabilitation program which started last year. WG&A has upped the total of its container handling equipment in Manila to 46 with the addition of three 45-tonner reach stackers, seven 28-tonner forklifts and one 8-tonner empty container side loader. Kearney said WG&A has also purchased 3,000 more containers to supplement the 4,000 it bought last year.

Maasin post-celebration

THE MAASINHON ng Metro Manila will hold its 47th annual fiesta celebration on Aug. 25, Saturday at the Grand Ballroom, Jade Valley Restaurant, Timog Avenue, Quezon City. This post-celebration, which is originally celebrated every Aug. 15 in Maasin, Southern Leyte, is in honor of Our Lady of Assumption. This year's *hermano* and *hermana mayores* are Ramon Conejos and Charlito Gaviola and their wives. Lawyer Nick Aquino, president, said the main beneficiaries of this year's celebration are the poor but deserving students. There are now 10 college students enrolled in 4 to 5-year courses at Saint Joseph College enjoying scholarship grants. Call Carding Paloma for details at 725-3632.

Jazz at Monk's Dream

YOU'LL never get enough of jazz at its best in the shows cooked up by City Lite 88.3. Join the cozy gigs of the smooth jazz FM station featuring jazz prince Richard Merk in a series of shows at Monk's Dream, Jupiter Street aptly titled "Jazz in the City". The shows happen at 9 p.m., tonight and Aug. 29. For inquiries, call the hotline of City Lite 88.3 at 631-8803.

LAKBAY PATROL

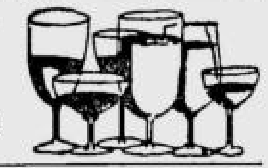
WG&A Philippines business analyst Aldo Barros awards 'Lakbay Patrol' caps and pins to porters, security personnel, dockhands and boarding crew during the conclusion of the company's Super Sigla 2001 sportsfest at Pier 14 in Manila. Super Sigla (Sipag, Galing at Lakas ng Samahan sa WG&A) served as the springboard event to renew the ground and boarding crew's commitment to the company's Lakbay Patrol passenger assistance program. WG&A Philippines is the largest shipping company in the country, serving 23 major and provincial ports across the nation, including Batangas. It is the first and, so far, the only domestic shipping liner to have its entire fleet certified according to the International Safety Management (ISM) Code standard.

PLANET CELLULAR OPENS

Planet Cellular and Citibyke is now open at the Cosmic Center Building at Pasong Tamo, corner Metropolitan Avenue in Makati City (beside Shopwise Supermarket). Planet Cellular offers a complete array of mobile phones (at deferred payment scheme), accessories, and prepaid cards.A happy customer (above), is shown with her phone purchase and lovable stuffed toys. Citibyke, on the other hand, offers state-of-the-art motorcycles, big bikes and scooters and their accessories made in the United States, Japan, Germany and China. For details, call 8999818; 899-9595 locals 339/35 or visit www.yupangconet.com. Check ongoing offers at boombayan.com or send "coupon cosmic" text messages through Smart 211.

Negative for Narvasa

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

IT seems that the circle of clients and friends that former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa is being seen with these days is of the type that the Makati Business Club and the civil society would not approve of.

The latest revelation, if you caught Channel 2's "Correspondents" the other night, is that the ex-CJ was even seen playing golf with no less than alleged drug lord Kim Wong in the same tournament.

(Kim Wong, in the same TV report, also was said to have given a Mimosa Golf share, not just playing rights, to Avelino Razon, who until recently was the police chief of Manila.)

This is not the first time that the former Supreme Court chief found himself in the rough, to use another golfing term.

A year ago, Narvasa accepted playing rights for Wack Wack despite the fact that the golf share that he had been assigned with was the subject of an ongoing litigation. Narvasa subsequently gave up the rights after the irregularity was reported in this column.

Even in such simple courtesies as court decorum, the ex-CJ had lately been found wanting.

No less than Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena had to remind his former superior about good manners and right conduct during the arraignment of former President Joseph Estrada.

Narvasa, who as you know is the chief Estrada counsel, apparently thought that the court bench was his private Lazy Boy recliner, slouching with his head nestled on his hands as imaginary head rest.

This is, sadly, not the way to end what could have been a sterling law career.

But then again, if you associate yourself with ruffians like Asiong Salonga, their raffish ways will inevitably rub off on you, some way, some how.

Erap boys still at it

THE STATED reason for the trading suspension of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (formerly Liberty Mines) is that the publicly listed real estate subsidiary of the sequestered POTC-Philcomsat Group has been unable to submit its year 2000 financial report.

The listed firm's auditors, SGV, in turn, could not submit the audited financial statement because there are two Erap-appointed boards each claiming control over the company, as well as the POTC/Philcomsat Group.

Because of the paralysis, Laya Mananghaya offered its services to one contending group, hoping, according to the grapevine, that the group headed by ex-Ambassador Manuel Nieto Jr. would win the Macapagal-Arroyo blessing.

The other group, headed by Erap supporters Carmelo Africa Jr. and Pacifico Marcelo, is, on the other hand, counting on fellow board member Honorio Poblador III's long friendship with First Gentleman and classmate Mike Arroyo for their "weather-weather" survival.

Marcelo and his group were "elected" in a special stockholders' meeting called in the dying days of the Erap administration, on Jan. 12, 2001 to be exact. The Erap nominees also included lawyer Federico Agcaoili, the Philippine Bar Association president who was denouncing Erap in full-page ads but, at the same

COCKTALES/ B7

A Dollar Investment with Guaranteed Return from Philippine AXA Life.

It's quite difficult to find the right investment nowadays. Considering the current state of the economy, you'd think twice before taking unnecessary risks. Fortunately, there's a new product in the market that makes your money work harder while protecting you from the ravages of inflation. Philippine AXA Life introduces Star Dollar - the only single premium dollar investment in the Philippines that comes with an insurance.

Unlike regular insurance products, Star Dollar has a one-time cash outlay scheme. "This takes away the hassles of paying your monthly or quarterly premiums," explains Philippine AXA Life Chief Marketing Officer Enrique dela Cruz. Your policy is secured until the time it matures. "And you can earn back your sum insured plus interest with a flexible maturity period of 10 to 20 years," he added.

A minimum of $1,000, is all you need to participate. The higher coverage you get, the bigger savings you enjoy. And if you're a non-smoker, you even get additional discounts on your premium. Star Dollar even allows you to participate in the investment earnings of the company in the form of dividends which you can use to purchase another policy or supplement your income.

"With the strength of the U.S. dollar and the security of an insurance in one product, there's no doubt that Star Dollar is the wisest and the safest long-term investment yet," says new Philippine AXA Life President Victor Quisumbing. On top of that, you get the expertise of the Global AXA Group and the financial power of Metrobank behind your investment. Just imagine what that can do for your peace of mind.

For inquiries about Star Dollar, call Philippine AXA Life Customer Service Hotline at 810-1394.

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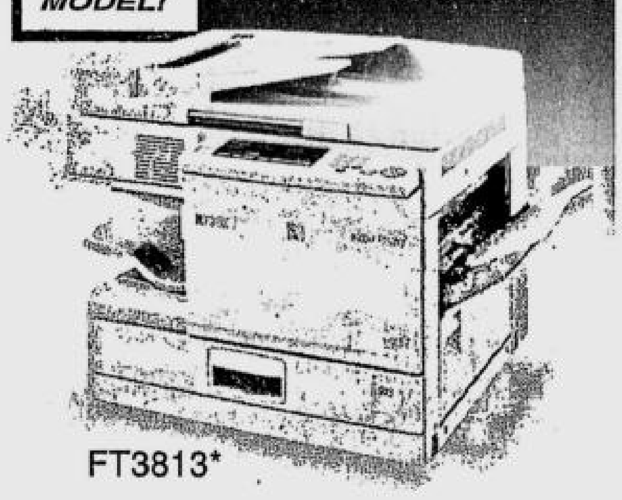

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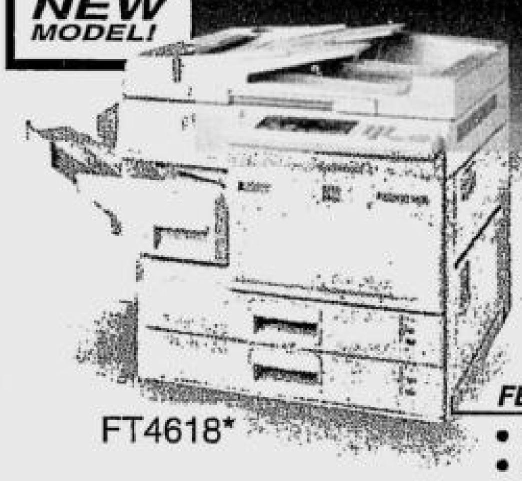

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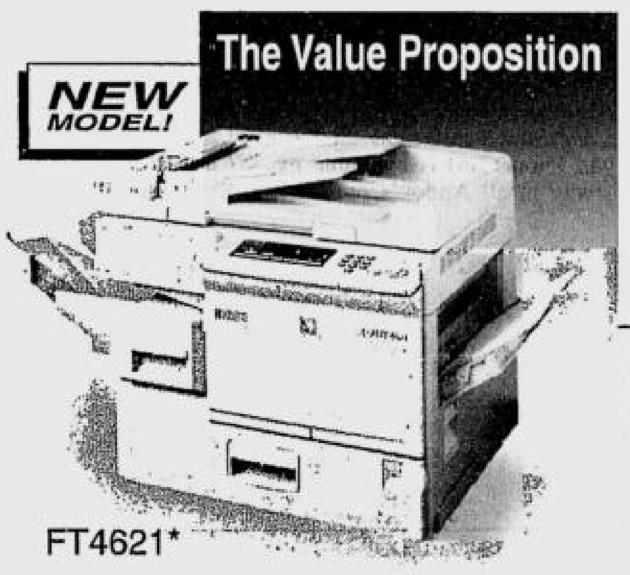

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	63	63	69,800
China Banking Corp.	600	620	600	620	3,410
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32.5	32	32	42,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	210	207	207	42,650
Prudential Bank	420	420	420	420	220
Philippine National Bank	51.5	51.5	51	51	52,100
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.*	20	20	20	20	600
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.5	19	19.5	20,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	9,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	240
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1465	1460	1465	1,170
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1210	1200	1205	2,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	36	35	35	8,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	260,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	645	1,380
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.035	0.038	0.035	0.037	14,700,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	570	560	560	243,950
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.03	39,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32.5	33	32.5	32.5	26,600
Manila Electric Co. B	43.5	44	43.5	43.5	1,365,500
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.88	1,097,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	1,707,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	9,939,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,109,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	88,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	3,400
RFM Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.3	2,275,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	42	41	41	68,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	56	54.5	56	326,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,137,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.6	1.54	1.6	1,212,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	66,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11.5	10	10	49,300
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,570,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.76	1,693,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	320,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	30,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	29	29	29	29	115,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	880,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.23	4,150,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	22,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	351,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.68	0.68	1,210,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	29,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	550,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	1,390,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35.5	35.5	35	35	100,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	15,100
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	95,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	54,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	9,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	53,900,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.8	4.7	4.8	2,629,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.31	0.31	11,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,620,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	2.08	1.98	2.08	7,402,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	61,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	23,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0056	5,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.047	0.043	0.044	65,300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	160,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	11,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	150,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	18,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	190,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	365,680	25,158,145.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	304,892,230	279,502,920.00
PRO	27,325,000	33,319,480.00
Mining	83,140,000	3,306,900.00
OIL	29,290,000	439,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	445,023,910	341,764,345.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	537.37	DOWN 3.23
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,839.66	DOWN 3.22
PRO	506.26	UP 2.08
Mining	1,281.32	DOWN 24.82
OIL	1.66	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	773.34	UP 5.27
Composite	1,306.66	DOWN 4.47

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 1,957

DISCLOSURES

BELLE Corp. has announced the election of Antonio Henson as a director. Henson was also elected as member of the executive committee, along with Jacinto Ng Jr.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank disclosed that effective Sept. 1, Pascual Garcia III will be its director, president and member of the executive committee, while Arthur Ty will be co-vice chair of the board.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. reported the termination of the services of Romeo Hermoso as chief financial officer of the company effective Aug. 31.

* * *

ZEUS Holdings Inc. has said its P14.5 million in accounts payable to **Blue Circle Philippines Inc.** has been converted into additional paid-in capital of Blue Circle in Zeus. Also converted into additional paid-in capital were Zeus' P157,492 in accounts payable to **Picop Holdings Inc.**

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 50,000 of its shares at P2.06 per share.

* * *

FERNANDO Gaspar has resigned as president and director of both **Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.** and **Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.** Resigned, too, were Chye Kuok Khoon Ho as EPHI's chair and director and Thaddeus Beczak as KPPI's vice chair and director. Elected to replace Ho was Edward Kuok Khoon Ho while Tomas Zita was elected director of both EPHI and KPPI. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

PSE starts operating new trading system

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to start operating today a new system that seeks to ensure that there will be no conflicts of interest in the trading of stocks.

The new trading system is part of a set of reforms set in motion by the stock exchange as a result of the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal.

In a news briefing yesterday, Alejandro Yu, a member of the PSE committees on floor trading/arbitration and business development, said the "customer-first policy" was part of the bourse's efforts to professionalize and modernize its operations.

The stock exchange, which has converted itself into a stock corporation that will soon sell shares to the public, aims to meet "best-practice standards" adopted by other exchanges in the world.

PSE technology committee chair Francisco Villaroman said the system was initiated by the stock exchange as a safeguard in view of the recent suspension of the broker-dealer segregation rule, which prevented members from trading their own accounts.

PSE members had long been complaining against this provision in the Securities Regulation Code because it restricted their trading activities against the backdrop of a difficult environment, where clients were staying out of the market.

The Securities Regulation Code defines a broker as one who trades account for clients while a dealer trades for his own account. Had the segregation rule been sustained, a PSE member would not be able to engage in both.

"The clients should be prioritized ahead of the brokerage houses," Yu said, noting that the PSE had modified the programming of its computer system to support this policy.

"We are rebuilding investor confidence to the market. We believe that we can protect the interest of the public," Yu said.

Although the PSE has long adopted the customer-first policy, the new system seeks to enhance the implementation of the system and ensure 100 percent compliance.

Under the system, as soon as a client gives an order to his broker, the broker must give way to his own client even when he has a pre-existing order in the computer system. This is to prevent front-running, or the practice whereby a broker prioritizes his own dealer accounts at the expense of his clients.

CURRENCIES

August 21,2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.094092	1.000000	51.3030
Japan	Yen	0.009057	0.008278	0.4247
United Kingdom	Pound	1.580525	1.444600	74.1123
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140449	0.128370	6.5858
Switzerland	Franc	0.658338	0.601721	30.8701
Canada	Dollar	0.708472	0.647543	33.2209
Singapore	Dollar	0.720889	0.658893	33.8032
Australia	Dollar	0.582274	0.532198	27.3034
Bahrain	Dinar	2.902255	2.652661	136.0895
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292538	0.267380	13.7174
Brunei	Dollar	0.622811	0.569249	29.2042
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000129	0.000118	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.024395	0.022297	1.1439
UAE	Dirham	0.297955	0.272331	13.9714
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000784	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.914000	46.8909
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.467321	23.9750
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139338	7.1485
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.414755	21.2782
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066423	3.4077
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022657	1.1624
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000472	0.0242
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153724	7.8865
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004559	0.2339
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005493	0.2818
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022657	1.1624
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.160541	59.5392

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Cocktales

(From page B5)

time, accepting Erap's appointment to the sequestered corporations.

There is more.

Erlinda Bildner, Francisca "Kitchie" Benedicto, and Rafael Poblador were also "elected" along with Marcelo despite the certification of the listed firm's transfer agent, Valera Reyes Mogarte Inc., that the three still had nada, zero, zilch shareholding in their own names more than two months after their supposed election.

Short takes

- KUOK Philippine Properties has accepted the resignation of its president, Fernando Gaspar. A former San Miguel executive before he joined Kuok, Gaspar will remain with the property company only up to Aug. 31.
- ERAP Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr. has a new home in Fremont, California.

Heard through the grapevine

MALL king Henry Sy is quietly buying up strategically located properties for his future malls.

The taipan has acquired a large chunk of a shuttered textile plant in Bulacan and another four hectares of the Manila Jockey Club.

Not to be outdone, the S & R Price Club is also negotiating for a neighboring slot in the soon-to-be redeveloped racetrack.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

US . . .

(From page B1)

CEO of the company, said the creditable performance of Family First here has encouraged him to locate its regional headquarters in Manila.

Berkley said in a press briefing that Family First executives would be pioneering the operations of the pre-need firm in Jakarta this month and would later on expand to other Southeast Asian countries.

Berkley said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo "is on the right track and it is giving more opportunities for business."

The insurance mogul, who built up W.R. Berkley Corp. into a giant in 34 years, stressed that "there are more rewards than risks in the Philippines."

3 groups keen on Fort Boni land

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THREE investor groups have expressed an interest in bidding next month for the rights to develop the 18.9-hectare property of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. at the Bonifacio Global City.

This was revealed yesterday by an FBDC official who declined to disclose the identities of the interested bidders.

"Those who expressed their intention to participate in the bidding were two major property developers and one investment house," the source said.

The three groups would have to be pre-qualified by the FBDC, a 55-45 joint venture between the Metro Pacific Corp.-led Bonifacio Land Corp. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority for the September bidding.

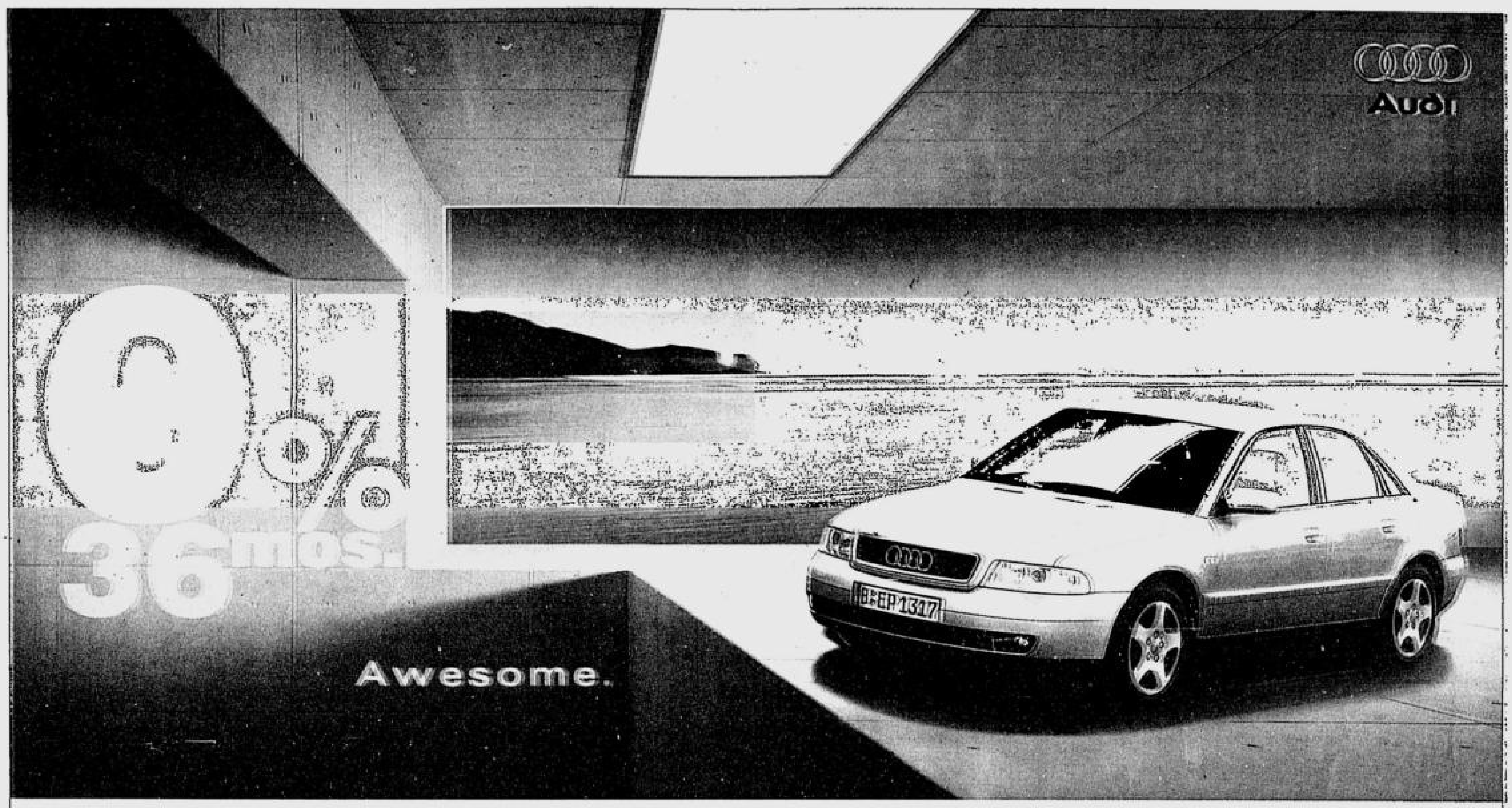
The 18.9-hectare property is located on the northern portion of the Fort Bonifacio complex near the sprawling S&R Membership Shopping complex and the Kalayaan Gate. It is adjacent to the proposed University Park which will be the future site of three major international schools.

FBDC has decided to farm out the development of part of its allocated land in Fort Bonifacio to generate cash to be used for the development of priority projects such as the Big Delta.

The FBDC source was satisfied with the number of interested bidders considering the depressed property market and the uncertainty over the economy's long term prospects.

However, a top official of a local property developer said interest in the property was weak because of the restrictions imposed by FBDC on the development of the property.

The official said not too many companies would be willing to pay at least P3 billion for the rights to develop the lot and still get prior approval from the FBDC for their development plans in the property earmarked for mixed-use development.



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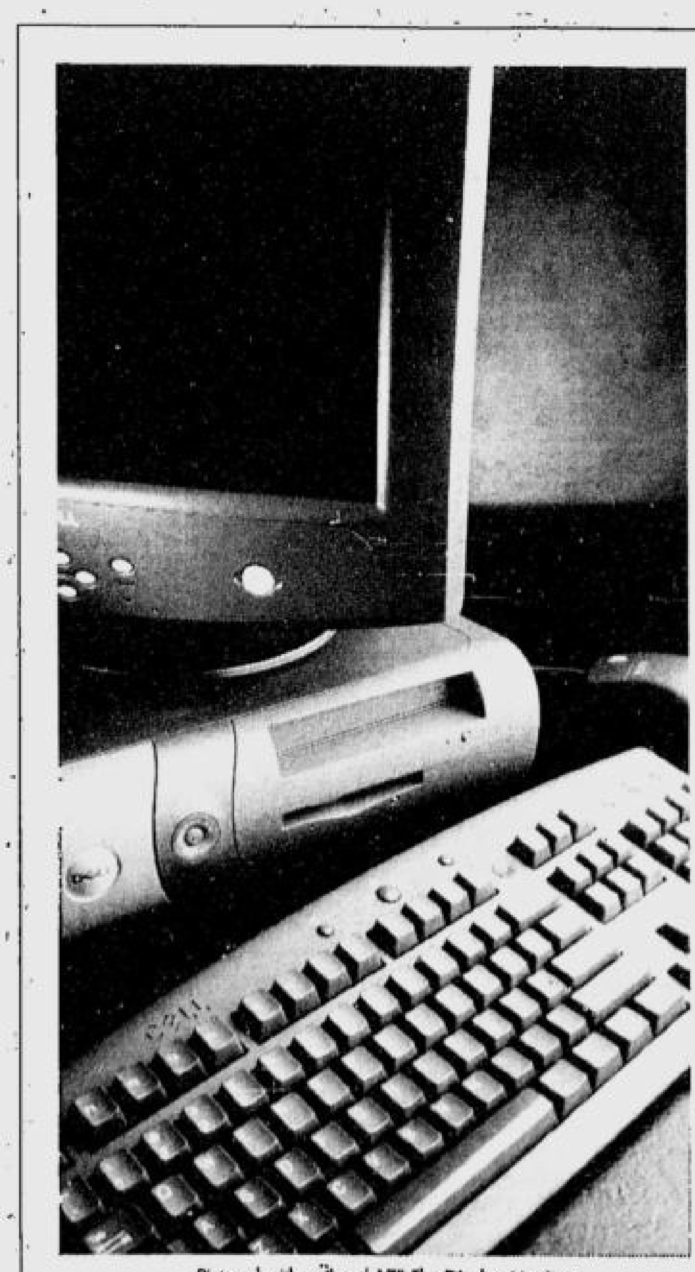

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Celsa B. Bernales has been extrajudicially settled by her heir on June 11, 2001 under Doc.#188; Page#39; Book#3; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Felixberto F. Abad of Quezon City (PDI-Aug. 22, 29, Sept. 5, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late
•CARIDAD M. PINEDA•
has been settled by the heirs extrajudicially before Notary Public Atty. Danilo Pineda per Doc.No. 396; Page No. 16; Book No. V; Series of 2001 Angeles City

PDI-Aug.22, 29 & Sept.5, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAFAEL SOLCHAGA DADIVAS which estate consists of various parcels of land has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 5, 2001, by and among his heirs as eveidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Gina C. Garcia of Makati City, and entered in her Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 287, Page No. 56, Book III, Series of 2001. (PDI-Aug. 15, 22 & 29, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JASMIN ISIP with waiver of share executed on Aug. 6, 2001 acknowledged before Atty. Francisco Malate Notary Public in the city of Paranaque Doc.#289, Page #58, Book #6 Series of 2001 PDI-Aug 8, 15 & 22, 2001

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- ACCOUNTING STAFF
- ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR
- QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT
- TRUCK DRIVER

Qualified applicants are requested to hand-carry their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only at

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. EMA-MC-01346
03 April 2001

TO : All Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of District Offices and All Personnel Concerned This Office

SUBJECT : **RECKONING OF THE 7TH DAY PERIOD FOR THE APPLICATION OF PENALTY FOR LATE INITIAL REGISTRATION**

Pursuant to RA 6539, otherwise known as the Anti-Carnapping Act of 1972, PNP-TMG clearance shall be one of the documentary requirements in the initial registration of any new motor vehicle.

In view thereof, PNP-TMG clearance issued for any vehicles shall be valid for registration within seven (7) days from issuance thereof. Henceforth, only clearances with properly printed and/or stamped date of issuance accompanied by Official Receipt (OR) of payment shall be valid as documentary requirement for initial registration of new vehicles. Clearances presented beyond the seven (7) day validity period shall only be accepted upon payment of corresponding fines and penalties.

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following submission of three (3) copies hereof with the U.P. Law Center.

All circulars, orders, memoranda and issuance which are deemed in conflict herewith are deemed superseded and/or modified accordingly.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
B/General AFP (Ret)
Assistant Secretary

NOTED:

(Sgd.) **ARTURO T. VALDEZ**
Undersecretary for Transportation

(PDI – Aug. 22, 2001)

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sbma
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4270, 4214, 4124 • Fax No. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA")**, through the Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify to a public bidding for the following:

ONE (1) UNIT TRACTOR HEAD, 6X4 (10 WHEELER)
ONE (1) UNIT CRASH FIRE RESCUE TRUCK, 8X8
ONE (1) UNIT AMBULANCE, WITH ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT GEARS AND ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT DEFRIBILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. VAT Registration
4. Certificate of Registration with the Department of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
5. Valid Mayor's Permit
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification Fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **August 31, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Room 201, Building 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

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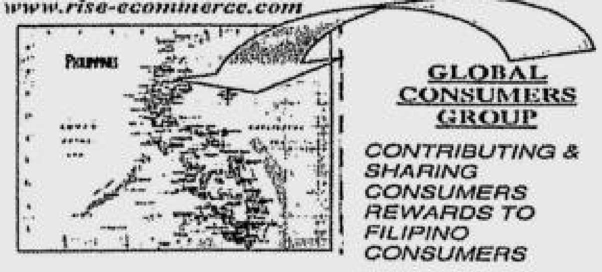

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/821-4764 / Telefax # (02) 821-1155
CP # 0919-4482698
Orientation Schedule: Aug. 23 & 25, 2001
(Thurs. & Sat.) @ 4 PM – 6 PM
E-mail: *lhouespiritu@yahoo.com*

◈ *RISE E-CUBAO*
Ms. Nila D. Cañezal
Rm 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA
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(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon 1101
QUEZON CITY BRANCH BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to prequalify and submit sealed proposals for the office requirements of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, as follows:

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

To handle the following:

1. JANITORIAL SERVICES – nine (9) janitors
2. SECURITY SERVICES – eleven (11) security guards

Inquiries on pre-qualification, details of the requirements, terms, and conditions, and official Bid Forms may be referred to the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, during office hours at Tel. No/s. 922-61-78 or 924-27-41.

For the purpose, the Bidding Schedule is prescribed:

Pre-qualification : September 07, 2001
Date of Bidding : September 17, 2001

9:00 A.M. Security Services
2:00 P.M. Janitorial Services

Sealed Bids in triplicate shall be submitted with a refundable cash bid security equivalent to 5% of the total amount of the bid. Manager's/Cashiers's of Certified Checks shall be acceptable as cash.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA**
Manager

(PDI - Aug. 22, 24 & 31, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

FAX No.: 895-83-22
Tel. Nos.: 897-66-82
890-13-32

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of DAVAO CORNER PLAS CORPORATION with address at MAMAY ROAD, LANANG, DAVAO CITY for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as NEW INDIRECT EXPORT PRODUCER OF PROFILE EXTRUDED CORNER POST at a capacity of 1,488,995 pieces per year and with existing/proposed plant site at Mamay Road, Lanang, Davao City has been officially accepted on July 10, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **DENNIS R. MIRALLES**
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI – Aug. 22, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region 10, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 858-4167
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INVITATION TO BID

August 22, 2001
World Bank/IBRD
Loan No. 4109-PH

The government of the Philippines has received a loan from the IBRD towards the cost of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible source as defined in the Guidelines Procurement under IBRD loan and IDA credits.

The National Irrigation Administration, Region 10, Cagayan de Oro City and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of SIBULA Communal Irrigation Project, located at Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occidental in accordance with the hereunder work packages.

Description of Project: Construction of Irrigation Dam, Canals & Canal Structures

PACKAGE I -- Furnish & Deliver HDPE Pipes (162 pcs. 18" dia. & 227 pcs. 24" dia.) Main Canal Sta. 2+780-5+225
No. of Calendar days to complete: 150
Minimum Bid Bond : Php 46,700.00

Major Items of Work Quantity/Unit	PACKAGE II Construction of Diversion Works	PACKAGE III Main Canal Sta. 0+200-2+780	PACKAGE IV Main Canal Sta. 2+780-6+480	PACKAGE V Main Canal Sta. 10+324-16+620 & Lateral "A" Sta. 0+000-3+520
1. Clearing & Grubbing	400 sq. m.	13,816 sq.m.	18,389 sq.m.	41,851 sq.m.
2. Common Excavation	300 cu.m.	18,829 cu.m.	3,750 cu.m.	2,951 cu.m.
3. Side Borrow w/ Compaction	-	-	-	2,290 cu.m.
4. Structure Excavation	780 cu.m.	4,865 cu.m.	9,522 sq.m.	465 cu.m.
5. Structure Backfill	-	1,978 cu.m.	4,858 cu.m.	101 cu.m.
6. 3,000 PSI Reinforced Conc.	152 cu.m.	803.30 cu.m.	719 cu.m.	693.40 cu.m.
7. Furnish RSB	6,842 kgs.	36,149 kgs.	32,355 kgs.	31,122 kgs.
8. Cut, Bend, Place RSB	6,842 kgs.	36,149 kgs.	32,355 kgs.	31,122 kgs.
9. 2,400 PSI Plain Concrete	-	-	-	587 cu.m.
10. Rubble Masonry	40 cu.m.	-	-	-
11. Plain Riprap	1,219 cu.m.	-	-	-
12. Furnish/install 18" dia. RC Pipes				
13. Furnish/install 24" dia. RC Pipes	-	-	13 pcs.	62 pcs.
14. Install 18" dia. HDPE Pipes				
15. Install 24" dia. HDPE Pipes	-	-	100 pcs.	-
	-	-	162 pcs.	-
	-	-	227 pcs.	-
No. of Calendar days to Complete	300	360	360	360
MINIMUM BID BOND	72,600.00	145,600.00	150,300.00	153,600.00
Project Category	Irrigation-Medium "A" or higher	Irrigation-Medium "A" or higher	Irrigation-Medium "A" or higher	Irrigation-Medium "A" or higher

BIDDING DATE September 26, 2001 1:00 P.M., NIA Provincial Irrigation Office, Conference Room, Oroquieta City

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

	Package II	Packages III, IV & V
1. One Bagger Concrete Mixer	1 unit, Owned	2 units, Owned per package
2. Backhoe 0.35-0.45 cap.	1 unit, Owned	1 unit, Owned per package
3. Bulldozer 80-200 HP	1 unit, Owned	1 unit, Owned per package
4. Dump Trucks 4.0 cu.m. cap.	2 units, Owned	2 units, Owned per package
5. Loader 0.50-0.80 cu.m. cap.	1 unit, Owned/Leased	1 unit, Owned/Leased per package
6. Vibratory Compactor 1 ton	1 unit, Owned	1 unit/Owned per package

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **August 31, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P 3,000.00) per package. Pre-bid conference will be held on **September 07, 2001** at 1:00 at Conference Room, NIA, Provincial Irrigation Office, Oroquieta City.

All bids must be accompanied by a corresponding security bid bond in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft of an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the NIA, Provincial Irrigation Office, Oroquieta City on or before bidding date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding dates in the presence of participating bidder or representative who chose to attend

The BAC-NIA Region 10 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evalua [illegible] complying bidder.

(Sgd.) JOHNNY V [illegible] MMANUEL
Regional Irrigation Manager

(PDI - August 22, 2001)

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Though I walk through the valley of
The shadow of death, I fear no evil:
For thou art with me; thy rod and
Staff—they comfort me.
Psalm 23:4

My beloved husband and our dearest father

Lorenzo de Castro Gochioco
(GO TSIN THONG)

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 12, 2001
in Richland, Washington State, U.S.A.

His bereaved family: WIFE **Montserrat (Choa Po Giok)**; CHILDREN **Michael**, **Genevieve**, **Mark**, **Melchor**, **Lawrence Millard**, **Maurice**, **Marvin**, **Geraldine**, **Malcolm**, **Matthew** and **Germaine**; daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great grandson request pious readers, friends and relatives to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 23, 2001, Thursday, at the Chinese Cemetery after the 7:30 a.m. Holy Mass.

The Board of Directors
Management and Employees of
MAPFRE ASIAN INSURANCE CORPORATION
mourn with deep sorrow the passing away

ROSALINDA S. ROQUE

Director
who joined her Creator on 05 August 2001
The faithful readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory
On the **Fifth Death Anniversary** of

MARIETTA SAMSON ADRIANO, Ph.D.

Who died on August 23, 1996

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

August 22		
	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Victory, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga
August 23		
	6:00 a.m.	Our Lady of Fatima , Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite
	6:15 a.m.	St. Scholastica's College, Manila
	6:15 a.m.	Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan
	6:20 a.m.	St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City
	6:30 a.m.	Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados, Sta. Ana, Manila
	6:45 a.m.	Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Sabang, Baliwag, Bulacan
	6:45 a.m.	Colegio de San Agustin, Dasmariñas Village, Makati
	7:00 a.m.	St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
	12:15 p.m.	
	12:30 p.m.	NEDA, Amber Road, Pasig
	12:30 p.m.	Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati
	5:00 p.m.	St. Agustin Church, Baliwag, Bulacan
	6:00 p.m.	Don Bosco Church, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
	6:00 p.m.	St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Church, Madrigal Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Cubao, Quezon City
	6:15 p.m.	Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan
August 26		
	9:00 a.m.	St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

We request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

COL. FIDEL VELANTE REYES, PC (RET.)

(Former PC Provincial Commander-Cebu 1951-54)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 20, 2001 at the age of 93.

His bereaved family **Brenda**, **Yayee**, **Bon**, **David**, **Stephanie**, **Tracy**, **Avelina**, **Aldrin**, **Jojo**, **Maverick**, **Rocky**, **Bill**, **Dennis**, **Lina**, **Aleli**, **Sonny**, **Ener** and other closed relatives wish to inform his other relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 10, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, August 24, 2001 at La Funeraria Paz Crematory at 10:00 AM.

Ashes will be brought to La Loma Cemetery for burial immediately after cremation.

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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FREE OBIT DESIGN

MANUEL VILLASISTA TICSAY

of Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 12, 2001 at the age of 61.

His wife **Loring**; children **Opal** and **Tony Rivera**; **Judy** and **Noel Quitlong**, **Susan** and **Jerome Vinluan**, and **Macel** and **Jeric Biascan**; grandchildren **CJ**, **Cyril**, **Noynoy**, **Jiana**, **Janina**, **Joshua**, **Jed** and **Jerrold**; brothers and sisters **Ben** and **Jeanne**, **Linda** and **Sam Mark**, **Vic** and **Prose**, **Jun** and **Marie**, **Aida** and **Eliseo Oviedo**, **Lita** and **Johnny Aquino**, **Rey** and **Baby**, and **Jessie**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at 152 Rivera Street, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 25 August 2001 at the Eternal Gardens after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Therese Parish, Dagupan City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
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Department of Agriculture

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) invites interested Information Technology (IT) companies to pre-qualify and to bid for the procurement and delivery of:

Local Area Network (LAN) Equipment

Pre-qualification requirements can be secured from Mr. Eduardo Dalusong, at the PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office, Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija 3120 and Mr. Rogel dela Cuesta at PCC Manila Liaison Office, 5F DCIEC Bldg., NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City starting on August 28, 2001. Last day of submission of pre-qualification documents will be on August 30, 2001.

Only those who submitted pre-qualification documents are allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on September 5, 2001, 2:00 P.M. at PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office, Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Those who failed to attend the pre-bidding conference are disqualified to participate in the bidding.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office not later than September 12, 2001, 2:00 P.M. at the same address. Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to attend the bidding proper.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) reserves the right to reject any all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug. 22 & 23, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the employment of **MS. NELSIE C. SALGADO**, whose picture appears above and whose last known address is Purok 5, Rajah Muda, Bula, General Santos City, has been terminated for cause by the **PREMIER INSURANCE and SURETY CORPORATION** effective August 1, 2001.

Any transaction made by **NELSIE C. SALGADO** on behalf of the company after the due date of the termination of her employment shall not be honored by the company.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – Aug. 22, 2001)

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Remove meeting miseries, fatigue

RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

I AM sure that you are up to your neck in meetings. Business here in the Philippines is managed by meetings. *Konting kibot*, meeting. From morning till quitting time, meetings are conducted. This practice is a not so judicious way of using paid time. And what is wasted is not minimum wage time but highly paid management time. To make full use of your meeting time, we shall tackle this topic here in our continuing learning journey to Manage Time and Lead a Productive Life Towards Achieving Personal Vision, Mission and Goals.

Strategic channels

Meetings are very strategic communication channels. Unfortunately, there are many unnecessary or poorly managed meetings that eat up your productive time and interrupt your more important tasks. What can you do to have more productive meetings?

First, prepare and review your agenda carefully to determine whether a formal meeting is necessary to discuss the issues. Agenda items should be stated in terms of required results, decisions or action terms rather than points for discussion that could lead to nowhere. For regular meetings, the agenda items should be planned by the attendees themselves and enough time should be allocated for each item. Sometimes there is more "other business" than the stated agenda items because attendees are not consulted on their issues. Remove "other business" from the agenda. Let attendees register their "personal business" way ahead or before the meeting starts to be officially entered as an agenda item. You don't want surprises in your meetings.

Sealing approvals

If you need approval for your project, don't wait until the meeting to discuss it. Even before the meeting, sound off the other attendees and get their arguments. Seal approvals during the meetings but get them before the meeting especially if such will require long discussions.

Serve the agenda early enough to all intended attendees to give them time to prepare. Don't cram too many agenda items in one meeting. Varied agenda items, long meetings and unprepared or badly management meetings cause meeting fatigue.

Second, once you have established the agenda, decide on who should be in the meeting. Keep attendees to a minimum number of appropriate people. You don't need many people there but you also don't want to miss out on those who could contribute to the substantive discussion and decision-making. If some people are needed only during a portion of the meeting, allow them to come in only at the time they are needed and to leave immediately after in order for them to use their time more efficiently.

Best time

Third, decide on the most opportune time to meet. Set the start and end time for meetings and stick to it. When is the best time to discuss such agenda items? When is the common free time for all the attendees? A good time to meet is before lunch or quitting time. People will naturally want to discuss direct to the point so as not to prolong the meeting.

If it is a meeting with meals, the meeting proper could be done before or after the meal is served. It will be hard to go into any serious discussions while your mouth is full. Better yet, meet at 11:00 or 11:30 until 12:30, then proceed to lunch.

Don't make the attendees too comfortable during meetings. You might consider stand-up arrangements for short meetings. Serve snack, coffee or tea before or after the meeting and away from your meeting table. And don't serve finger foods and anything that crackles like chips or coated peanuts.

Best place

Fourth, decide on the appropriate meeting venue. Meet at the office, then move on to your lunch venue. It is quite difficult to have all those papers and materials with you on top of table settings. Meet somebody in his/her room or desk, so that it is easy for you to say goodbye. Close the room where you are meeting to avoid distractions.

Fifth, set ground rules. You should plan on attending meetings. Keep to the time limit for discussions. No telephone calls (mobile or landline) and other interruptions (e.g. staff needing signature of boss) during the meeting. No going in and out of the room while meeting is in progress except to answer the call of nature. Only one meeting at a time, no side conversations. Nobody is allowed to bring in their working papers and do regular work during meetings. That is gross.

Mind the process. Not just the content of the meeting. Keep the discussion on track by periodically summarizing where you are. When there are agreements or decisions, establish responsibilities and follow-up dates.

Facilities

Sixth, prepare all equipment and materials to be used beforehand, e.g. computers, overhead projector, flipchart paper and markers or whiteboard with eraser and markers. Also, reference materials, handouts, etc. Tell the attendees what to bring to the meeting.

Seventh, Always be prepared and arrive on time. When one attendee arrives late, two will be late next meeting, then three, etc. Make the latecomers be aware of their offense. Clap your hands when they arrive. Collect stiff fines. Have one-on-one talks with habitual latecomers and tell them the effect of their being late on everybody's time and temper.

Eight, end the meeting on time even if you have not finished the agenda items. Agree on date, time and place of follow-up meetings. This will give them the signal that on subsequent meetings they have to discuss direct to the point and be decisive or nothing will be accomplished. This will also help the attendees to manage their own time in and out of the meeting.

Documentation

Ninth, prepare and distribute the minutes of the meeting as soon as possible while the discussions are still fresh in the minds of the attendees. This will also serve as a follow-up tool for required action on agreements and decisions. Undocumented meetings are easily forgotten and might as well not have been held in the first place.

Tenth, spend 5 to10 minutes end time of your meetings on analyzing and critiquing your use of meeting time. What went well in the meeting? Which could be improved? Did you have the right mix of agenda, attendees, time and place? Were people prepared and had enough airtime? Did you have enough time overall? How did the organizer handle the meeting?

These same rules are applicable wherever you are—whether you are with your family council, church committee, friends and *barkada*, civic and social organizations and others. You spend a lot of time on idle chatter and long-winding discussions that waste time, energy and, sometimes, emotions. Meetings are important and could be very productive and satisfying when managed very well.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos @Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Philippines is host of int'l industrial relations congress

THE PHILIPPINES will host the prestigious International Industrial Relations Association (IIRA) 4th Asian Regional Congress from November 20-21, 2001 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City. The University of the Philippines School of Labor and Industrial Relations (UP-SOLAIR) and the Philippine Industrial Relations Society (PIRS), in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), are organizing the congress.

Co-chairman for Publicity, Raymund Mercado, states, "This will be an excellent opportunity for many working Filipinos and Asians to exchange information and views on the most recent global trends, issues, and challenges in the world of work and employment relations. We feel that through the congress, we can help make our country more competitive and improve the lives of our fellow workers in the Philippines and Asia."

International guest speakers such as IIRA officers, dignitaries, government officials, professionals, union officers and members, academicians, scholars, and students will share and present their papers in the congress. Interested parties may register at the UP-SOLAIR Secretariat or call 928-6396 or 920-7693.

Wellness...

(From page B12)

along the way.

Bringing his field of expertise here was another matter. Considering the shaky economy, Teves had to think 10, a hundred times before finally deciding to do so. "I believe this is temporary and things will improve sooner than we expect," he says optimistically.

In essence, Teves is advocating another culture, a culture of wellness which, he says, can increase productivity in the workplace and ultimately result in a better quality of life. "It is not merely theoretical," says Teves. "It has been proven that the method works."

Teves points out that being a pioneer gives one a definite advantage. "We are proponents of a relatively new idea and we are the only ones here with the ability to put these programs together. We are introducing a total approach." Teves continuously updates himself on wellness by reading the latest books, journals and periodicals.

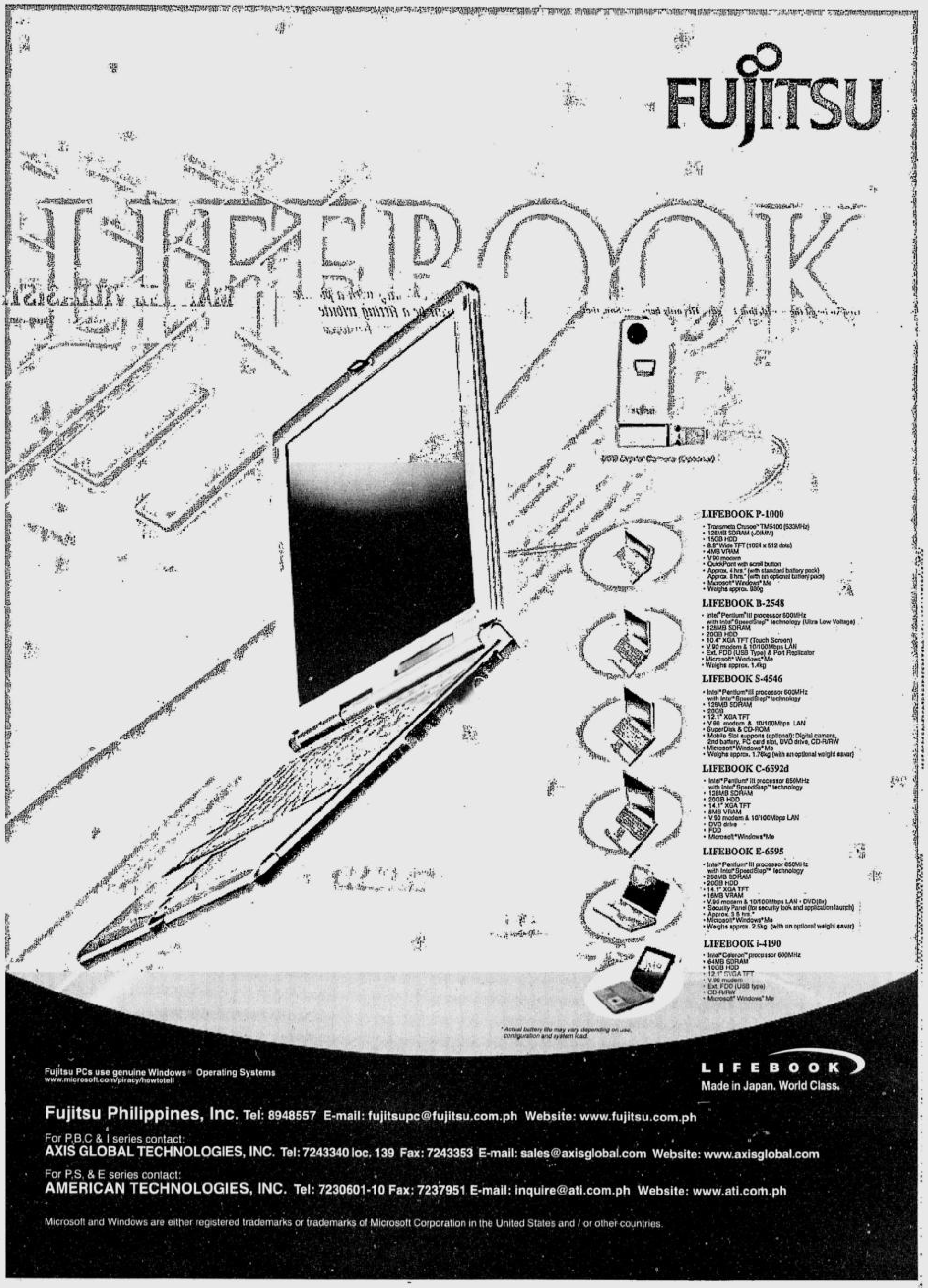
Alternative lifestyle

While wellness is still unexplored in our country, in the US, it has become an accepted alternative lifestyle. "But there are no shortcuts to it," Teves observes. "It takes a lot of work and disciple, persistence and perseverance. The benefits, however, are worth every effort."

As a seasoned practitioner of the method, Teves says he can cite case histories, personal accounts of individuals, who have experienced these benefits, including several who had been chronically ill but had gotten well through the method. "Every person is responsible for his own health and well-being," says Teves.

At the moment, Teves feels he needs to overcome certain obstacles, among which is traditional thinking. Although cultivating a healthy lifestyle—proper diet and physical fitness—is now the politically correct thing to do, many are still inclined to take the easier route. "This is a challenge," says Teves, who remains undaunted. "It's a matter of opening people's minds and this can happen because we have the ability to present our Wellness Works programs in a scientific but practical way."

But an even more formidable obstacle is the economic uncertainty we're facing. "It could work against us," says Teves. "It could put wellness and total well-being at the bottom of the list." Ironically, it is in these stressful times when we need most to be at our best. Right now this is the succinct yet relevant message Teves would like to bring across.



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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

CAREER*Tales*

Consultant focuses on total well-being

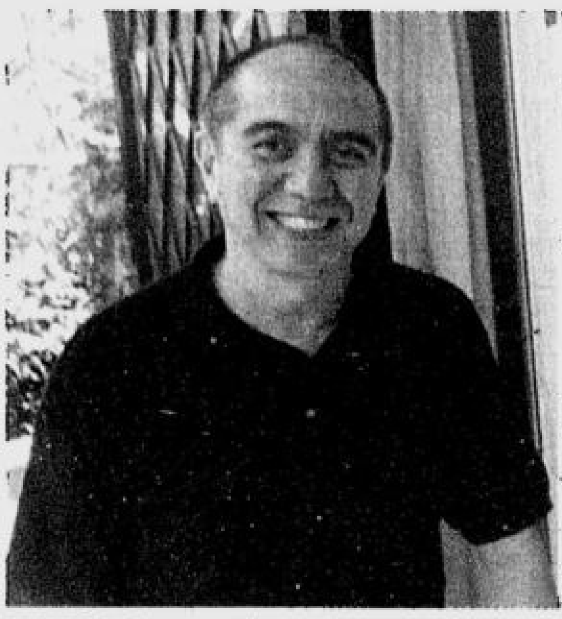
PHOTO BY EDWIN BACASMAS

TEVES believes wellness is a way of life.

By Cecile G. Garcia

WELLNESS, according to Wellness consultant Dennis Teves, refers to an optimum state of well being, which can be achieved by employing a bio-psycho-social approach. "This approach includes holistic health practices, which take into consideration everything we do, feel and think, everything we eat and drink because all these have an effect on our total health," says Teves. Wellness, he continues, focuses on the root cause and not on the symptoms of the problem. It goes beyond prevention. "It's a way of life," he says.

Teves has been a wellness practitioner in the US for the past 16 years though he claims his interest in it goes back to the 70s, which was when the wellness movement was started in the States by a certain Dr. John Travis. Three months ago, Teves, a long-time resident of the United States, decided to go into local practice. "I believe there are opportunities here because Filipinos are always open to new ideas," he says.

Way of life

Interestingly, it has been Teves' way of life for many years. A graduate of Behavioral Science from the Ateneo de Manila, with a postgraduate degree from the Asian Institute of Management, in the mid-80s, Teves consulted a wellness center in the States. Even then, he recalls, he was already an advocate of a healthy lifestyle. "I've never smoked. I avoid alcohol, eat a balanced diet and have become a vegetarian," he says.

When he underwent a basic fitness assessment back then and was given the result in numbers—"I was rated"—Teves was glad to discover that he fared pretty well. But more than that, the idea that it could be done scientifically appealed to him. "I talked with the program director from whom I found out that I could actually take a short course on wellness and that there were institutes specializing in it."

Training

For a start, Teves enrolled at the Cooper Institute for Aerobics in Dallas, Texas. The institute is a pioneer in preventive medicine. "I felt that learning the scientific benefits of aerobics was a good starting point," he avers. Later on, for further studies in Behavioral Medicine, Wellness and Health Promotion, he attended the Harvard Medical School of Mind-Body Medicine Institute. In-between, he took up other highly specialized courses related to wellness.

At that time, wellness as a movement had caught on in the States and pockets of the American population were slowly picking it up as a preventive measure. Establishing a career in it, according to Teves, was relatively easy because there were opportunities everywhere.

Over the years, Teves had worked as consultant-trainer for various HMOs, fitness and wellness centers, hospitals, nursing homes and schools, such as the University of Southern Maine at Mt. San Antonio College. On the side, he handled programs on his own, utilizing contacts he had developed

WELLNESS/B11

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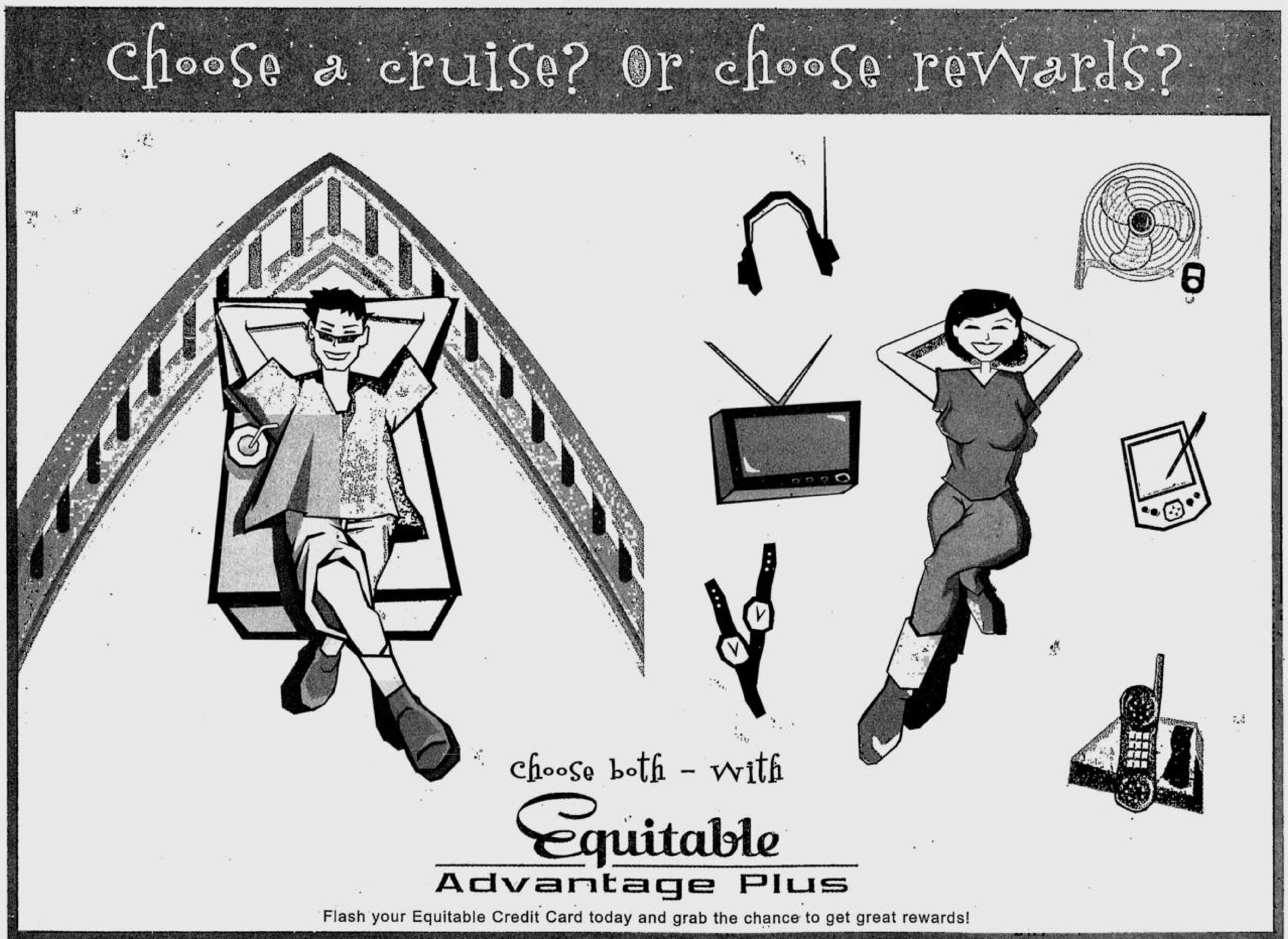

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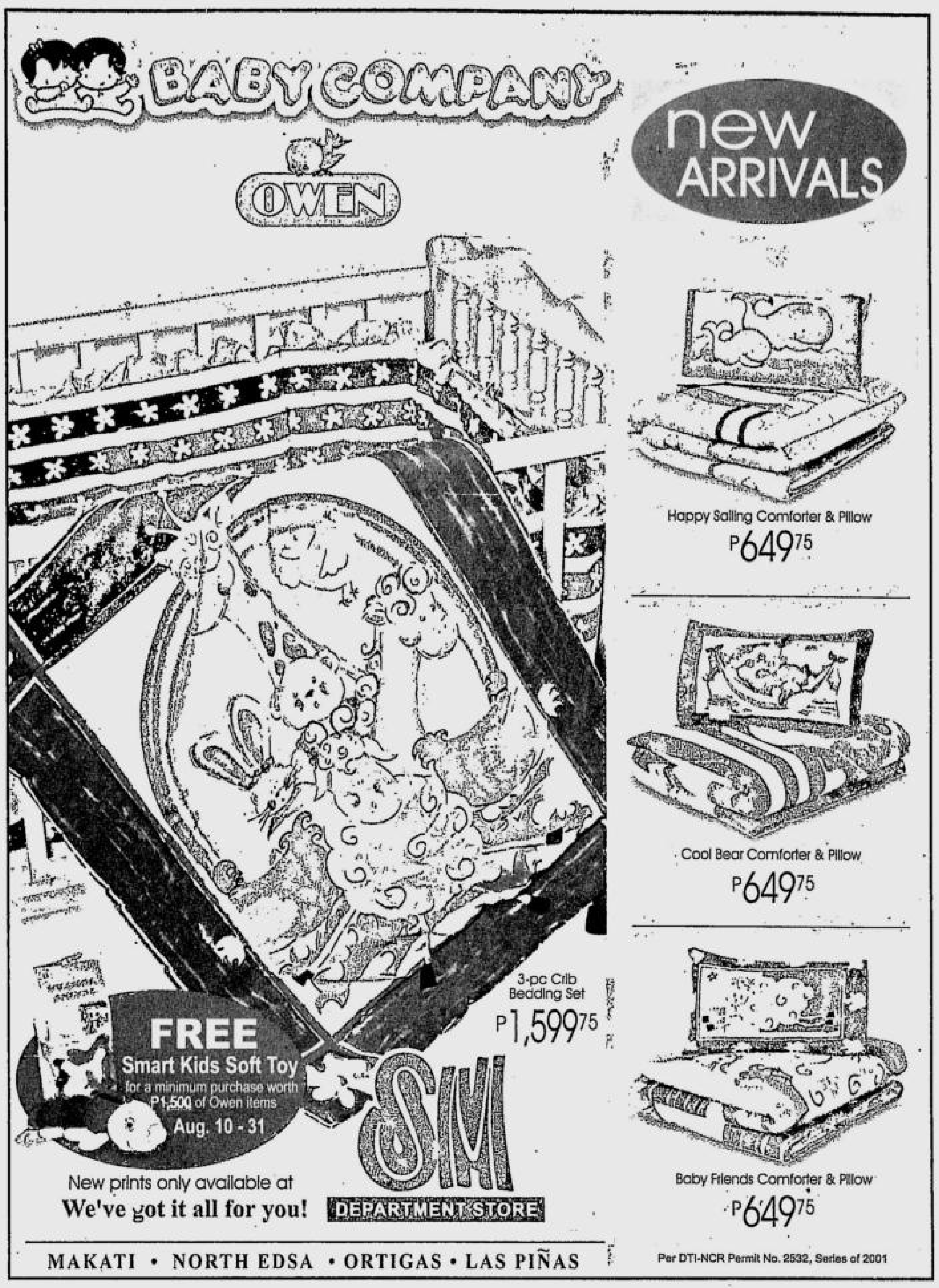

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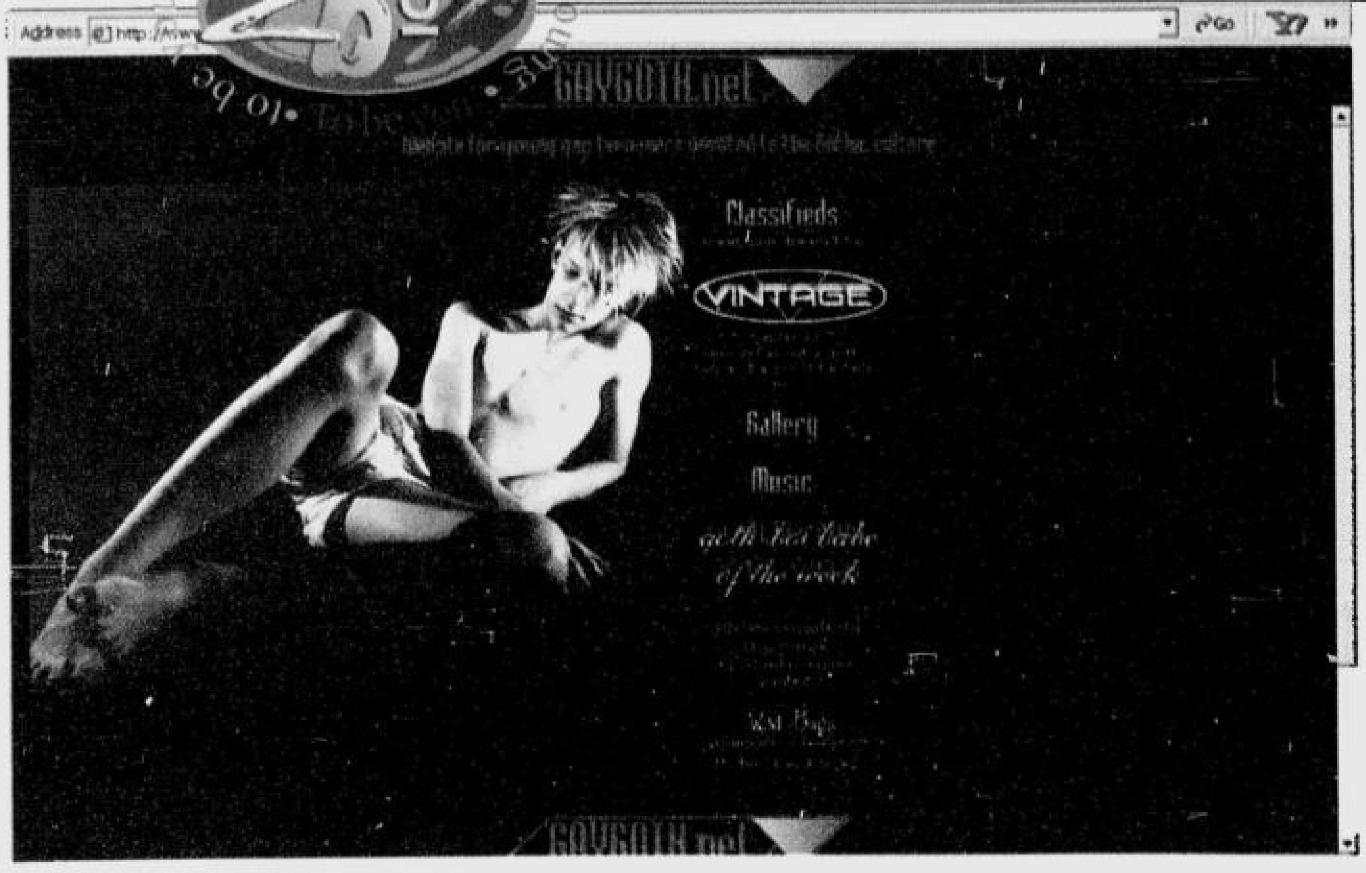

Kindly press G for gay and gothic

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

LIVING either a gothic or a gay lifestyle is pretty much difficult, so imagine how much more it is when you're both gay and gothic.

Thankfully, the universe loves its mutants and sends them a manual and a support system from time to time.

On the Internet, one such blessing is a "website for young gay teenagers devoted to the gothic culture."

Gentlemen and gentle men, please point your browsers to www.gaygoth.net.

Quite expectedly, the whole site is in black and even the welcome page is just a black-and-white pic of a topless guy who resembles one from the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

The site houses seven main sections.

"Classifieds" is a list of personal ads from craving, longing, desperate, searching (and probably horny) gaygoths from around the world, 99.9 percent of which are accompanied by photos. One will surely enjoy scanning pics of Marilyn Manson's relatives.

"Vintage" is Steve Berman's novel about a goth boy and a ghost with whom he falls in love. Chapter 11 is currently displayed for your reading pleasure.

"Gallery" houses three gothic boy erotic galleries which I didn't have the time to visit.

In "Music," the album of an entity known as Gitane Demone is reviewed.

The site also features "Gothic Couple of the Week," and in the Aug. 14 edition, a kissing portrait of Noodles and Mongoose is posted for everyone to see.

There is also "Boi Babe of the Week," who doesn't necessarily need to be a goth.

Finally, a fanpage for the supposed best actor in the universe (Leonardo DiCaprio) is also featured and is known as "Modern Day Romeo."

So if you're gay, gothic or both (or maybe you're simply a fan of the Marilyn Manson look), give those ebony eyeliners a break and let those fingers do some clicking.

Memoirs of an ex-goth

I USED to have a huge black closet full of black fashion articles: shirts of every style and size, pants of every cut, boots, sneakers, slippers and loafers. Each and every item was solidly black, except for my extra-small white briefs with kite, balloon and cloud prints.

I tormented my hair with loads of gel every day, had a pencil case of kohl eyeliners, and was a patron of Caronia black nail polish.

The four walls of my room were plastered with posters of the Crow, Marilyn Manson, Robert Smith and all these gorgeous faces I tore out of cheap alternative magazines no one wanted to buy at Booksale.

Halloween was my Christmas. I'd embellish my room with little paper bats and throw out a party for me and my friends every year. We'd light up black candles and sandalwood incense sticks, read each other's oracles, recite poetry, have a B-horror movie filmfest and get drunk on coffee to the tune of Bjork's "Hyperballad."

Every day, I submitted myself to school and repainted my nails every vacant hour. While boring teachers lectured on photosynthesis or algebraic expressions, I'd flip through the pages of Fangoria or doodle headless lesbians on my Math notebook.

Every night, I met kindred spirits with whom I exchanged gory stories. I flaunted my newly made accessories, shared heartaches and my killing rampage schemes.

As an advocate of creativity, I immersed myself in the arts: sketching using sign pens, pentel pens and blood, designing unwearable clothes, writing very short stories and even shorter poems and creating songs even if the notes were incomprehensible.

I believed in vampires and eternal love, werewolves and intoxication, witches and warlocks and obsession, magic and full moon and ankhs and spells and fairydust.

But one summer morning, I ran out of gel and all my nail polish bottles dried up. Wearing black suddenly became annoying and out of benevolence, I decided to donate my eyeliners and eyebrow pencils to some eyebrowless gay. The bits of masking tape that held my posters to the walls lost their adhesiveness, and I was too lazy to replace them.

Suddenly, I just got tired of being suicidal and angst-ridden.

Once or so every month I still get to wrap myself in black. I've rediscovered color and recently painted neon ticks on my still black closet. I still go out with Robert Smith and the gang but I have expanded my circle of friends. I now have deep friendships with Nelly Furtado and the Sugababes.

Deep in my heart I know I still have some gothic blood running through my veins. It's just that I'm trying to avoid labels since they limit me. I've realized that no single label can define the real me. How else can you categorize a sunny, dark, moody, optimistic, suicidal, friendly loner who digs both Bjork and M2M?

You might answer schizoid, but that's not an acceptable answer.

Niño Mark M. Sablan

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6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
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11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:
    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12: 00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SPW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
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22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

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REGIMENTAL PICNIC. The 29th platoon with company officer Lt. Fitzpatrick (front) and senior enlisted officer Chief Hysler (right). Rea is leftmost on the bottom row, with a cast on her right foot for stress fractures.

Filipina is a US Naval Academy cadet

By Blooey Singson
2bU! Correspondent
Ateneo de Manila University

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Rea Dacanay leads no ordinary life. She is the only Filipino out of eight foreign nationals and one of 196 women in the class of 1,500 plebe midshipmen in the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Class of 2005.

Her classmates in high school at St. Scholastica's College, Manila, who affectionately addressed her as "Admiral Dacanay" when she appeared in school plays toting her dad's uniform, might be surprised to learn that their joke might just prove prophetic.

A dream come true

Rea had always been interested in the naval service, mainly because while she was growing up, her dad (a naval officer who graduated from the USNA and who pioneered naval oceanography in the Philippine Navy) would tell the family stories about life at sea that fascinated her. Later, being on board a naval vessel and visiting the USNA twice would firm up her decision. She was going to the USNA.

The USNA, the undergraduate college of the US Navy, trains young men and women to become officers in the US Navy and Marine Corps or naval forces of other countries. It is a highly selective school that accepts applicants who excel not just in the academics, but also in athletics, service and leadership.

Rea's entry into the USNA was not easy. She had to get nominations from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and take various tests. These included Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), standard tests needed to apply to any university in the United States.

As a candidate for the USNA, she had to take the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (Dodmerb) medical test. She also had to pass the Naval Academy Physical Aptitude Exam, a rigorous physical fitness test (it includes a 300-yard shuttle run, a kneeling basketball throw, a standing long jump, push-ups and either pull-ups for men or a flexed-arm hang for women) to evaluate a candidate's coordination, strength, speed, agility and endurance.

AT THE SMOKE Hall during the oath-taking of foreign nationals, Rea is flanked by two USNA '76, Capt. Ralph Scherini (in uniform) and Butch Aguenza with wife Evelyn.

Staying the course

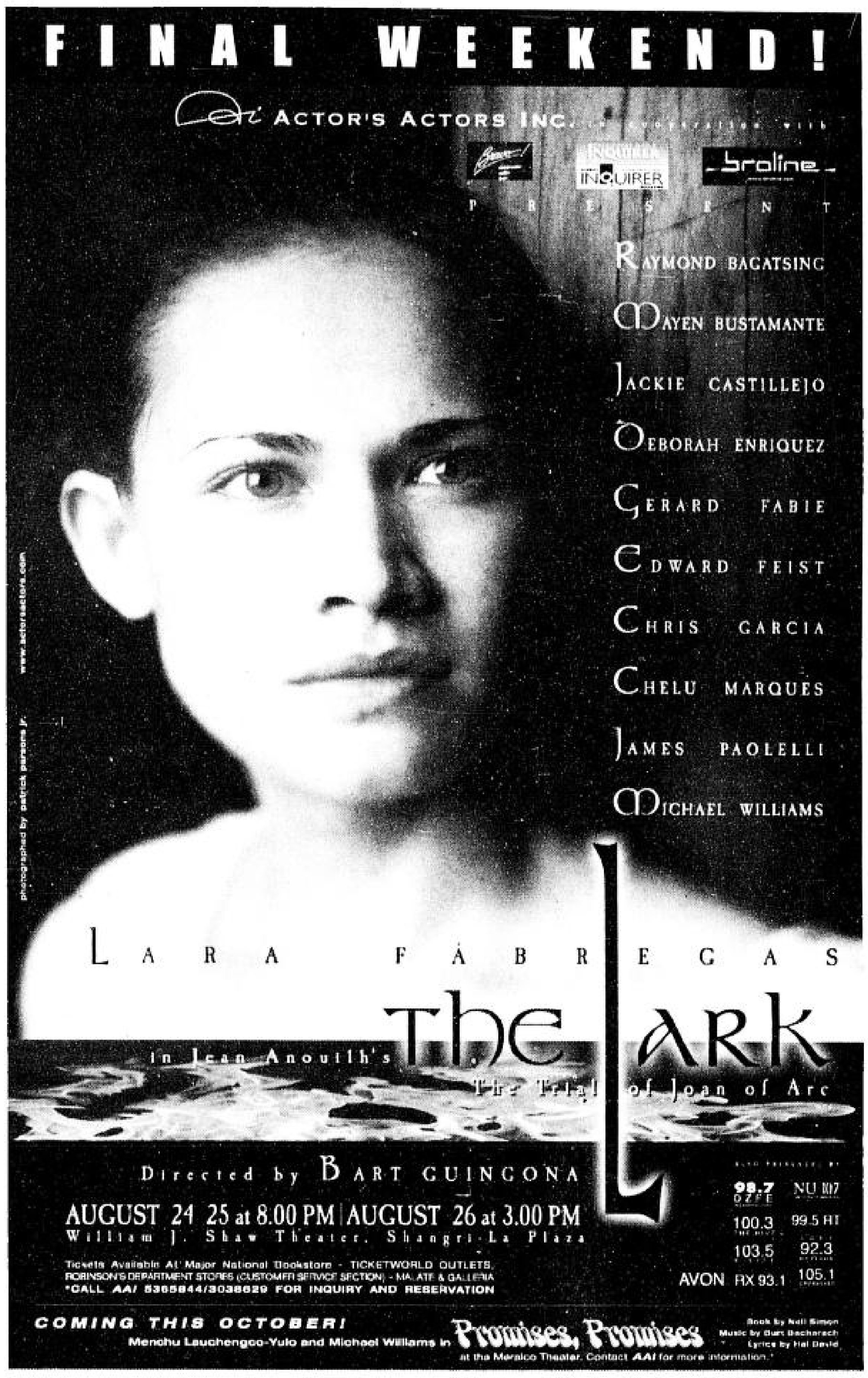
Upon her acceptance, Rea, as a plebe midshipman, had to undergo the Plebe Summer, seven weeks of intensive, dawn-'til-late training—a preparation for her next four years at the USNA. Some candidates dropped out after the Plebe Summer, which gave them a taste of actual life in the academy. Rea, with minor injuries but unflagging spirit, stayed the course.

Rea wakes up at 5: 30 a.m. and does her physical fitness workout. At 6:30, there is a short assembly, a morning meal formation. Breakfast is at 7:10 then regular classes follow at 7:55-11:45. Rea attends four one-hour classes.

She gets into the lunch meal formation at 12:05 and has lunch at 12:15. At 12:40, Rea has company training time. Two more classes—1:30-3:30 p.m.—follow. From 3:30-6 p.m., she gets into varsity and intramural athletics, extracurricular and personal activities. Drills and parades are held twice weekly in the fall and spring.

The cadet has supper at 5-7 p.m., then a three-and-a-half-hour study period. At 11 p.m.

FILIPINA/ p.C7



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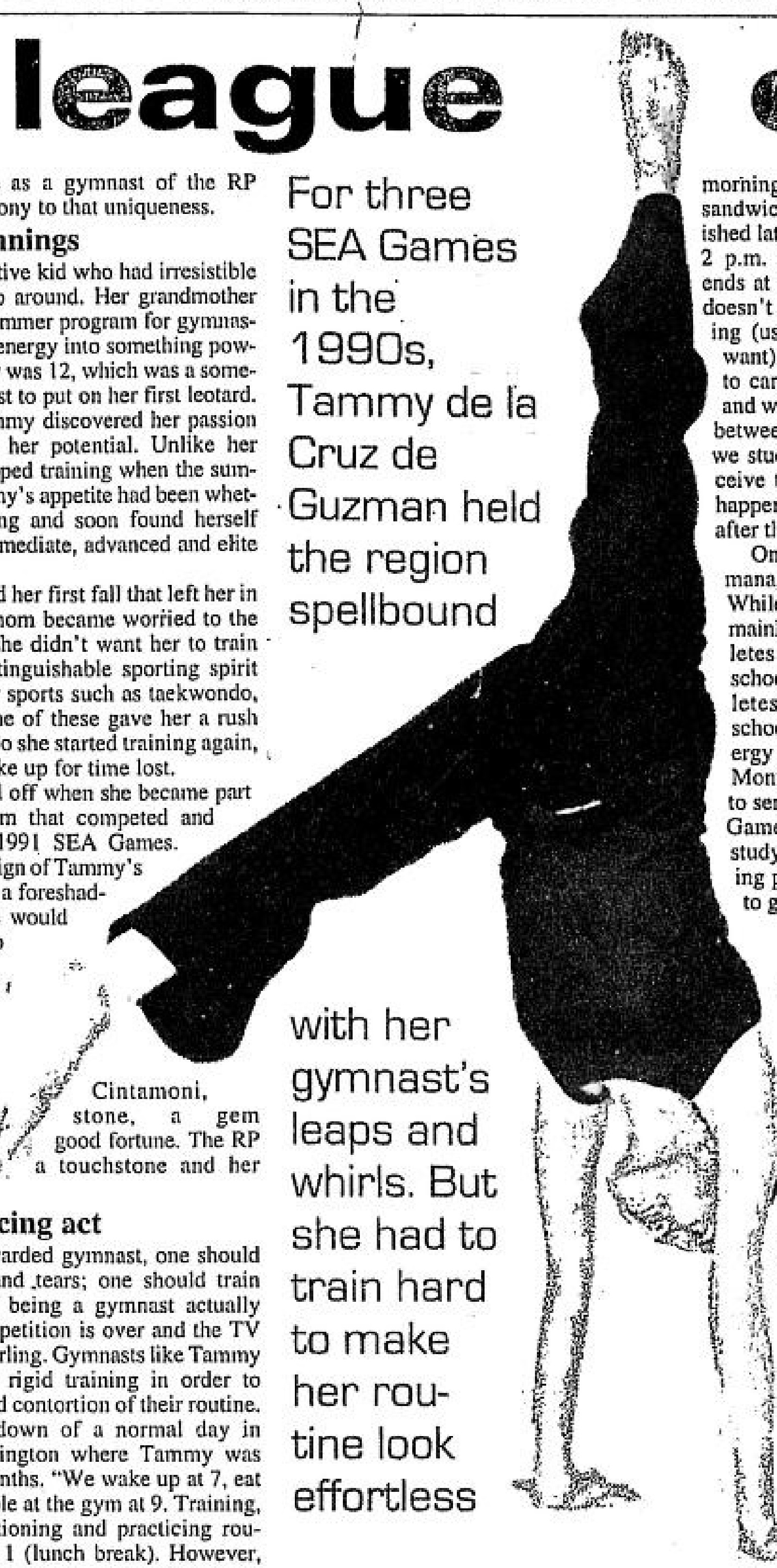
In a league of her own

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

For three SEA Games in the 1990s, Tammy de la Cruz de Guzman held the region spellbound with her gymnast's leaps and whirls. But she had to train hard to make her routine look effortless



THE SPORTS arena was quiet but electric with anticipation. All eyes were turned to the young gymnast who was about to perform her routine. The silence was suddenly broken by quick, rhythmic footfalls as the gymnast ran and launched herself on a series of handsprings, back tucks and side-aerials. She finished her routine in beautiful form, with her hands extended triumphantly into the air. The audience broke into wild applause.

Although the spectacle is more likely to figure in the daydreams of little girls, the above was actually simply another day in the life of former RP National Team gymnast Tammy de la Cruz de Guzman. Then again, Tammy's exceptional talent and caliber set her different from most little girls when she was their age.

The lifestyle of athletes, especially those who go on professional training, puts them in a league of their own. Tammy's life as a gymnast of the RP National Team is a testimony to that uniqueness.

TAMMY de la Cruz de Guzman

Beginnings

Tammy was a hyperactive kid who had irresistible urges to tumble and jump around. Her grandmother wisely enrolled her in a summer program for gymnastics, a sport that channels energy into something powerful and graceful. Tammy was 12, which was a somewhat late age for a gymnast to put on her first leotard. But it did not matter. Tammy discovered her passion and the coaches spotted her potential. Unlike her other classmates who stopped training when the summer program ended, Tammy's appetite had been whetted. She continued training and soon found herself rising in the ranks of intermediate, advanced and elite levels.

In competition, she had her first fall that left her in a cast for a month. Her mom became worried to the point of telling her that she didn't want her to train anymore. Tammy's inextinguishable sporting spirit led her to dabble in other sports such as taekwondo, diving and *arnis*, but none of these gave her a rush the way gymnastics did. So she started training again, working extra hard to make up for time lost.

Hard work finally paid off when she became part of the RP National Team that competed and bagged the gold in the 1991 SEA Games. This was the first tell-tale sign of Tammy's imminent winning streak, a foreshadowing of the medals she would win for the country in two more SEA Games (Singapore and Thailand) and other prestigious international gymnastic meets. It is interesting to note that Tammy's full name is Cintamoni, which is Hindi for touchstone, a gem which grants its owner good fortune. The RP National Team truly had a touchstone and her name was Tammy.

Balancing act

To become a multiawarded gymnast, one should invest in blood, sweat and tears; one should train well. The nitty-gritty of being a gymnast actually takes place after the competition is over and the TV cameras have stopped whirling. Gymnasts like Tammy have to spend hours of rigid training in order to perfect each inflection and contortion of their routine.

Tammy gives a rundown of a normal day in SCATS Academy, Huntington where Tammy was sent to train for a few months. "We wake up at 7, eat at 8 and promptly assemble at the gym at 9. Training, which consists of conditioning and practicing routines, has to be done by 1 (lunch break). However, you can't have your lunch break unless you finish morning training. I once had to eat a sandwich in 30 minutes because I finished late and had to be in time for the 2 p.m. afternoon training. Training ends at 7 p.m. and we watch TV—it doesn't matter what we end up watching (usually what the younger kids want) because we're too exhausted to care. Dinner is served at 8 p.m. and we have to be asleep by 9:30. In between dinner and falling asleep, we study, check for injuries and receive therapy. The same procedure happens the next day and the day after that." Whew.

One can just imagine the time management athletes have to do. While most people are concerned mainly about schoolwork alone, athletes have to worry about both school and sport. Sometimes, athletes have to sacrifice normal schooling because of time and energy constraints. Tammy left O.B. Montessori shortly after she started to seriously train for the 1991 SEA Games. She enrolled in a home study program and took a qualifying pep exam (credited by DECS) to get into college.

Pros and cons

Tammy studied at Centro Escolar University, juggling schoolwork and training. Her classmates and teachers were supportive and helped the award-winning gymnast, but Tammy decided to stop schooling after two years because the training for international competitions ate up most of her time. "I felt I had to train more than the rest if I wanted to be No. 1," Tammy said.

Indeed, taking gymnastics seriously has brought Tammy to live a life different from most people. But as with everybody else's, the life of a gymnast in the RP National Team has its ups and downs. Gymnastics taught Tammy how to be independent and self-motivated.

WITH OLYMPIC champion Svetlana Khorkina

Her parents were busy, different from most star-struck parents of national champions who were their children's biggest fans. This caused Tammy to draw gratification from no one else but herself. Aside from admiring the likes of Nadia Comaneci (the Michael Jordan of gymnastics), Tammy was her own hero and the knowledge that she could win was her driving force.

Gymnastics has also taught Tammy self-control. Gymnasts have to watch their diets very closely. At SCATS Academy, gymnasts are weighed every morning. If they gain weight, the ration of a bowl of cereal or a bagel (nope, they can't have both) is cut back. Tammy used to eat anything she wanted without gaining a single pound, but she had to follow a strict diet once she began training. The downside to this is that gymnasts can become overly conscious of their weight even after they retire.

Managing time was another thing Tammy drew from her training. For athletes, time is measured and calculated so that not a minute is lost. While some of us are guilty of whiling away time uselessly, Tammy uses up every single bit of it to achieve her goals. The only days Tammy was not in the gym are Christmas and New Year.

Full circle

Tammy retired from gymnastics in 1998. Today, she is 24 and happily married to fellow athlete Mike de Guzman and is a doting mom to her children Mikey, 2, and Caitlin, 1. Her passion for the sport has not died down and she coaches the new generation of gymnasts. It is hoped there will be another Tammy de la Cruz in the new generation of gymnasts.

Does she regret her life as a national gymnast? "Some people tell me I didn't have a life," she says. "I tell them I did have a life. Could they have done what I was doing?"

With reports from Happy David

Graduating under one's own roof

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

Is being home-schooled always the last resort? Think again, it's actually an option

HOME schooling has been associated with show-biz personalities sidetracked by their careers that they don't have the time to attend a regular school. Add to this the I-flunked-my-high-school-too-many-times-to-remember-and-no-other-school-will-accept-me types to complete the equation.

A different story

Meet Diwata Kalaw (a.k.a. Dee to family and friends), a 17-year-old Swiss-Filipina currently residing in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. She has not been bitten by the show-biz bug and has never gone through any academic probation. "My parents had always wanted all of us in the family to be home-schooled at the start," the brown-eyed beauty explains. "My mom had a friend whose children were home-schooled and she kept on raving how great it was so my parents started reading brochures and then decided to give it a try."

How it works

An incoming junior at the Keystone National High School in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, Dee normally tackles four to five subjects a day, each ranging from an hour to two hours—all self-paced. Like most high schools in the US, she gets to choose the classes she wants to take based on the number of credits she has to earn per subject in order to graduate. This year, she will be taking Spanish, English Literature, World History, Algebra/Geometry with Trigonometry, Computer and Biology. So how does home schooling work? "I have a manual for each subject which provides a suggested schedule and instructions for what to study. After every session, I have exercises, tests and quizzes, and for certain subjects, I keep a journal. Then I take an examination, which is worth 10 percent of my grade. After three lesson exams, I have a part examination worth 20 percent of my grade. I have six-lesson exams and two-part exams plus research reports and journals. I put my answers to the exams on a computer sheet and send it to my school through e-mail. My school updates me about my grades through e-mail but sends my evaluation sheets to me through airmail." And behind the computer screens and airmail packages in Keystone are her teachers—one for each subject—who check and grade her work. Like most mentors, they monitor her improvement. She can contact them any time she encounters difficulties. For her language classes, she has to make do with audiotapes, which can be very demanding on her part.

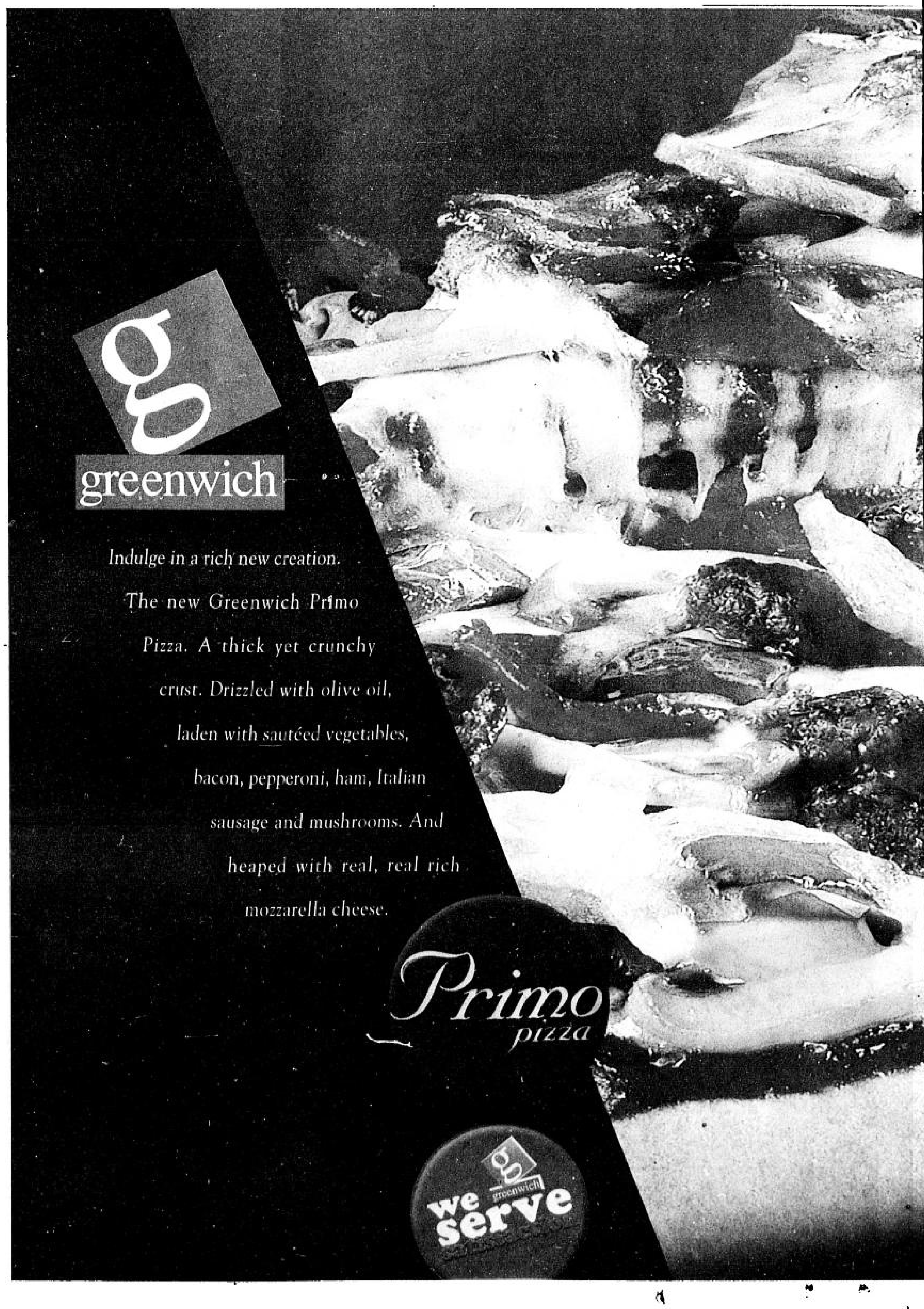
Perks

Though she admits that being home-schooled can be tedious at times (especially since there are no social interactions, opinion-sharing and debates), this Enrique Iglesias fan admits that it does have its perks as well. "I get to travel and do things while still being able to make up for school." And this advantage is very much utilized since she shuttles back and forth between Puerto Galera and Manila every few weeks. "I live in Puerto Galera but I go to Manila for dental/medical appointments and also because my social life and all my friends are there, too." And because of her generally flexible schedule, she manages to indulge in her hobbies—scuba diving, tennis, dancing and creative writing—on a regular basis.

Self-actualization

"I *always* wonder what it's like to go to a regular school," Dee says wistfully, "I'm really happy being home-schooled but most of the time, I can't help but wish I were in a regular school so I could interact with people." Still, she has no regrets about having been home-schooled practically her entire life. "Being home-schooled has taught me to be more open-minded. I don't have to deal with social pressure; I actually have the chance of finding out what kind of person I am—my true identity, unlike in a regular school where everyone wants to be like the most popular girl. I'm not pressured to think and act in a certain way in order to be accepted. I can formulate my own ideas and I can be what I want to be." Now that's a redefinition of home-schooling: open-mindedness, non-conformity and the development of intellectual prowess.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com



g greenwich

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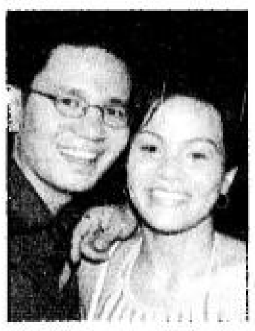
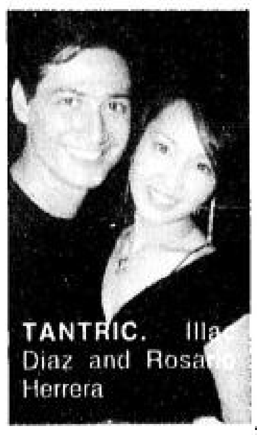
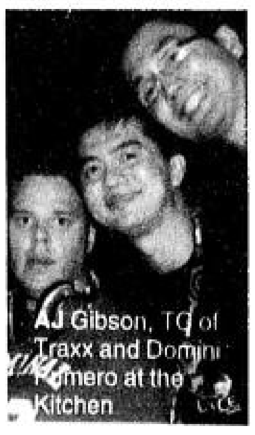
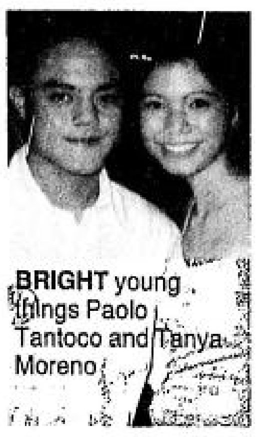

AYALA'S PRIDE. Grace Barbers with Lauro Baja


TANTRIC. Illa Diaz and Rosa[illegible] Herrera

MIRACLE [illegible] Celine Gabriel, Paolo Prieto and Joey Carpo

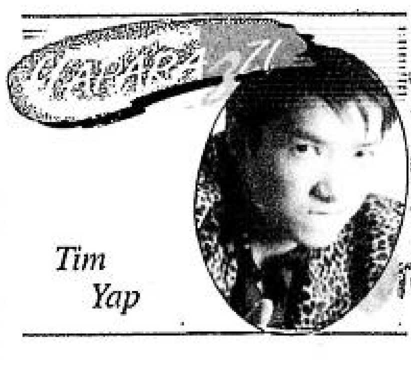
LANCÔME loyalist Tessa Prieto-Valdes


AJ Gibson, TC of Traxx and Domini Romero at the Kitchen


BRIGHT young things Paolo Tantoco and Tanya Moreno

WATCH out for more from Marcel Crespo, here with Robin da Roza.

The scene is alive . . . again


Tim Yap

I NEVER had any doubt about it actually. The scene never died anyway. It may have rested, hibernated or slowed down, but it has always been omnipresent, just going through the regular night life cycles.

Now more than ever, Manila's hip and happening hotspots have been developing their own niches, proof of the ever-increasing need for variety and night owl venues within the city. The classic jaded-comment (goes for both kids and mature owls) "The crowd is too young!" "They're too old!" should be heard less—there's something for everyone.

Of late, there's been a steady growth of martini and wine bars. Most notable of which is Shiraz (107 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati), hip young metropolitan Manila's latest hangout. Society never looked so good in this well-lit, high-ceiling bar with a New York feel. To die for are their Godiva and kisses choco-tinis and lychee martinis—cosmopolitan Manila takes on a new twist.

It was also the venue for Lancôme's latest Miracle scent. Guests were tickled pink by its mod light fruity (lychee-based, actually) floral scent. Bright, young things—from style files **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**, **Leica Carpo**, **Pia Guanio** to singer **Rada Cuadrado**—walked in blushing with a pink glow as they sprayed on Miracle vials. Martinis and "mwah-a-thons" after, the buzz became louder as the girls compared notes and scents. It was a scene straight out of "Sex and the City," martinis and all.

NOW you know why she is called the "belly" dancer.

JUST call me "Angel," says U2 hunk Bernie Guinto.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Gods Kitchen, 'After Hours'

The weekend took my feet high up in heaven with the arrival of UK based God's Kitchen whose massive dance party was held within the confines of Glorietta mall's spacious center. U2 clothing had its launch night **Joey Espino**-directed fashion show, followed by the sizzling set of DJ **TC** of Traxx, whom I personally think is one of the best deejays around. I preferred his set than that of Gods Kitchen DJ **AJ Gibson**.

Big Fish, the event's hard-working promoter, scored another coup with this one. As with last year's NBC Halloween party, Cream at the Tent, urbanites stormed the venue despite the rains. Tenacity will indeed take you places.

The night's biggest victory, however, was at the "After Hours" party held at club Wherelse right after the rave. Chill tunes meshed with the Moroccan tents, belly dancer and mirror ball combo; native mats further spruced up with candles and couches which visionary owner **Marcel Crespo** set up along with young interior design wiz **Miguel Rosales**.

"This is how the scene should be," exclaimed an elated partyphile over the exclusive (as in, strictly by-invite-only) late-late night, uh, well, more like morning affair. The doors opened at 3 a.m., breakfast was served at 5:30 a.m. to the chi chi partyphiles composed of sassy celebs and sexy scenesters in the venue. There are still "after-after-hours" venues which go from 6 a.m.-6 p.m., but that's another story. As DJ **David Jacob** puts it, "*Achtung*, baby!"

AFTER HOURS. Jesse Maxwell and Bianca Zobel

Linea's 'Fashion Rebellion'

This week is equally if not more high energy. Linea Italia takes the reigns with their "Fashion Rebellion" party this Thursday. "Fight censorship and intolerance—this is for uncivil society," says **Freddy Panicucci**, Linea's big, big man responsible for the big, big sales of each season of his big, big banner party tomorrow night. "Join the party!"

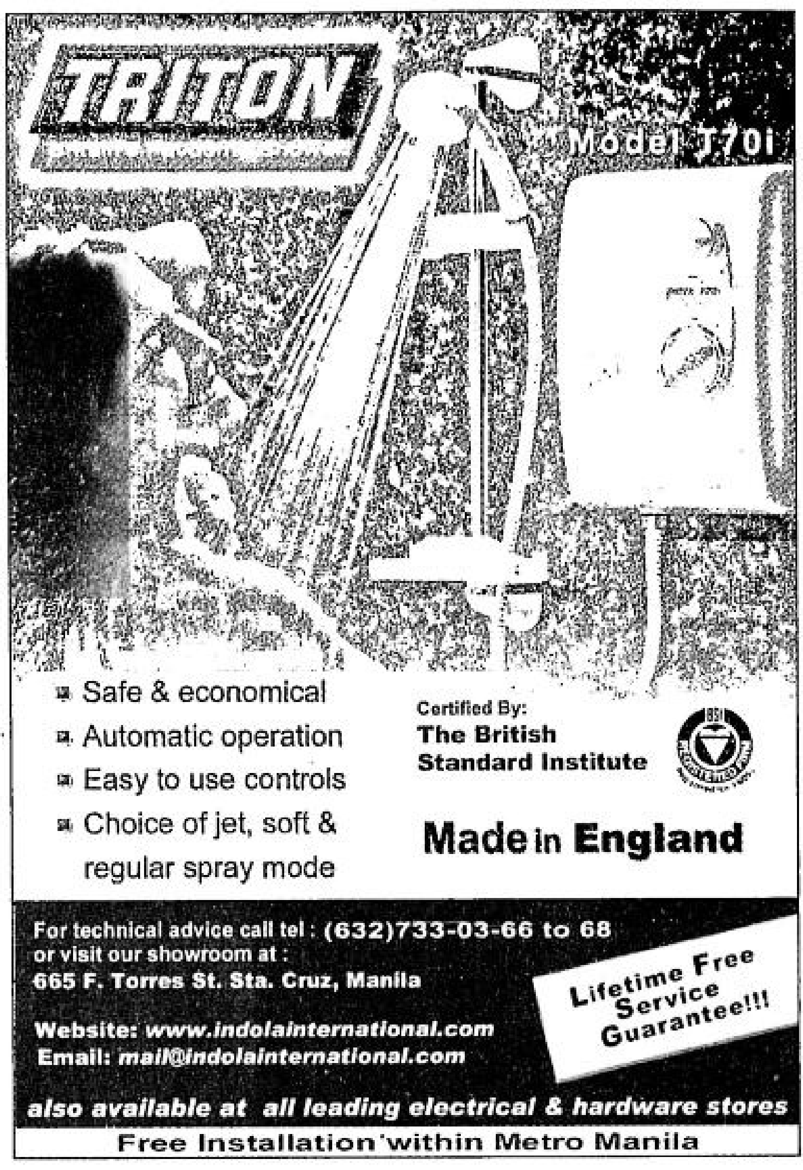
"Military spunk or red-hot punk" attire is required at this barracks party to be held at 7/F RCBC Plaza, Ayala and Buendia Avenues. This time, expect Manila to dress up in cocky camouflage or mod punk—the wilder, the better. Why? The best dressed militarista and punkista get to take home P100,000 (yup, you got that right!) in Linea Italia gift certificates. Whew!

Then, Friday night, BMW launches their latest with a fab party at the NBC Tent. Saturday nights are martini nights as well at Ebisu (146 Jupiter St., Makati), fast gaining popularity with its intimate weekend chill nights and parties. Former Preview editor **Tara Santos** hosted one last Saturday.

So brace yourself, the party season begins—again.

REBELLION. Troy Montero, Jules Chanco and JM Rodriguez

U2 TEAM. Ritchie Santos with Marivic Pineda, Rose and Angela Montenegro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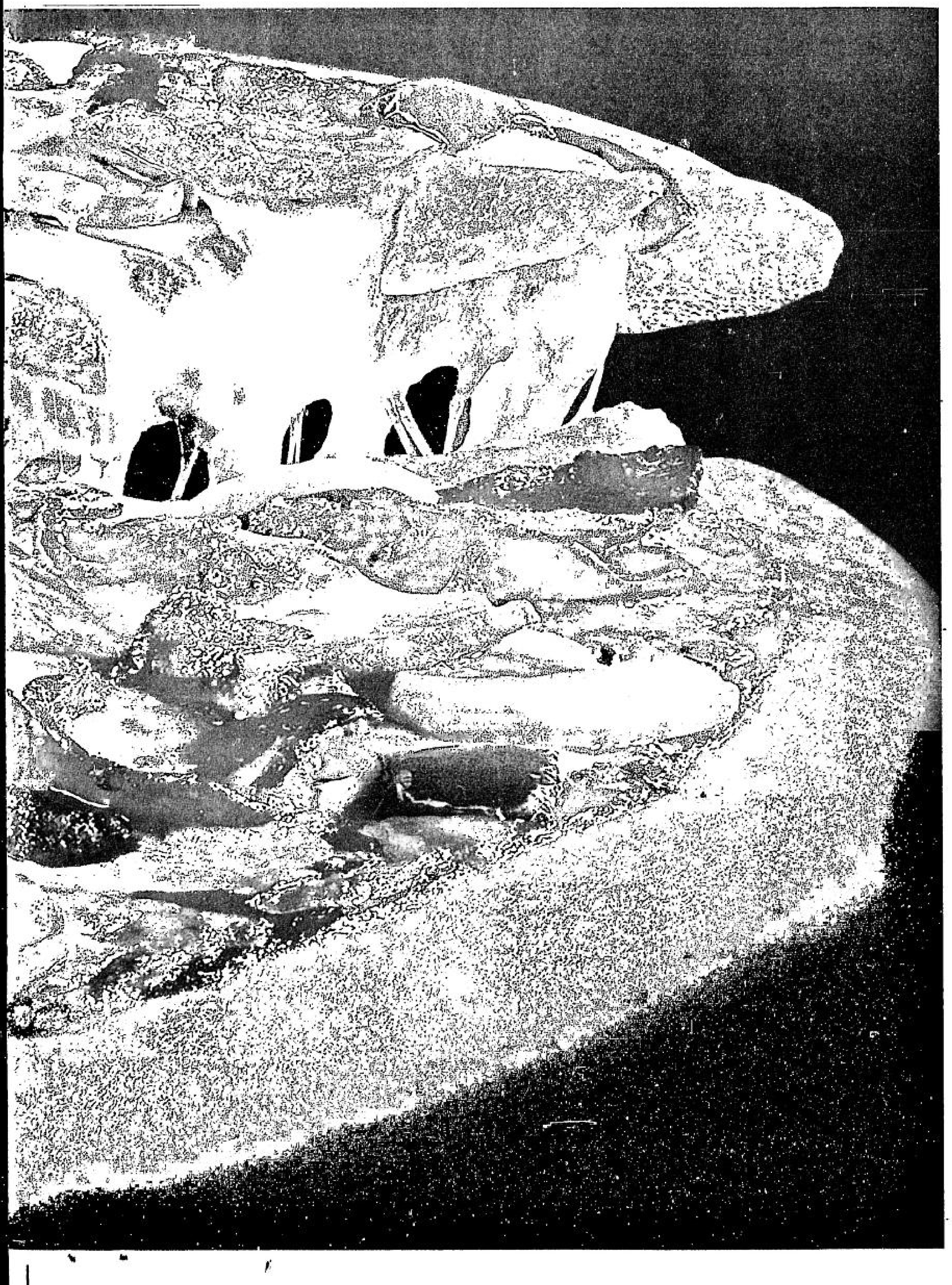


He goes gaga over a vain goddess

CHATROOM
Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I have a deep admiration for this girl in the campus. Anyway, I'm a senior high school geek who's terribly and absolutely turning gaga over this student goddess. The problem is, she's a super-*sikat* girl who is so vain. Should I go on courting her or should I just write down the feelings I have for her?

JEPOY

You're a fool to go straight to the crown jewels when they are the most heavily guarded items of the palace. And based on your personality, I think I know your type. You're the perfect fool who'll walk right to the drawbridge, demand that the portcullis be raised and ask that they hand over the crown in a paper bag.

If you have any respect for the memory of McGyver, keep in mind that he always used a diversion. There has to be a way to attract that girl so you can make a minor fool of yourself—but in an endearing way. In the teenage dirtbag encyclopedia, there can be no substitute for the sneaky, underhanded way to win the affections of a vain goddess.

Remember, diversionary tactics can fall into several tricks. It can be a smokescreen, the illusion of bilocation, the false "Voice of God" (deviations of this trick can be "Voice of Mom," "Voice of School Principal," etc.). Sun Tzu writes in his "Art of War": "Let the enemy misgauge your apparent distance. If you are far away, make yourself appear close. If you should be at hand, lie and pretend you're a distant cousin who doesn't quite remember her name." Another trick is to make more fires than camps. That way the enemy will mistake your numbers.

This is the only advice I know. I've risen past the ranks of geekdom—perfecting the artful dance of human desire.

One last quote, though. From the journals of Sun Tzu's lesser-known captain, La-ki Chan, "Never give a deadly weapon to a moron, he will wipe out half your forces with his new confidence." Kapisch?

CALOY

I have seen a lot of girls hanging out with dubious-looking guys. Maybe it's because of the horror stories women have been hearing about the ratio of the male population to that of the female population. Last time, I heard it was 1:5. Jeepers creepers. No wonder some girls sell themselves short and go with really horrible guys.

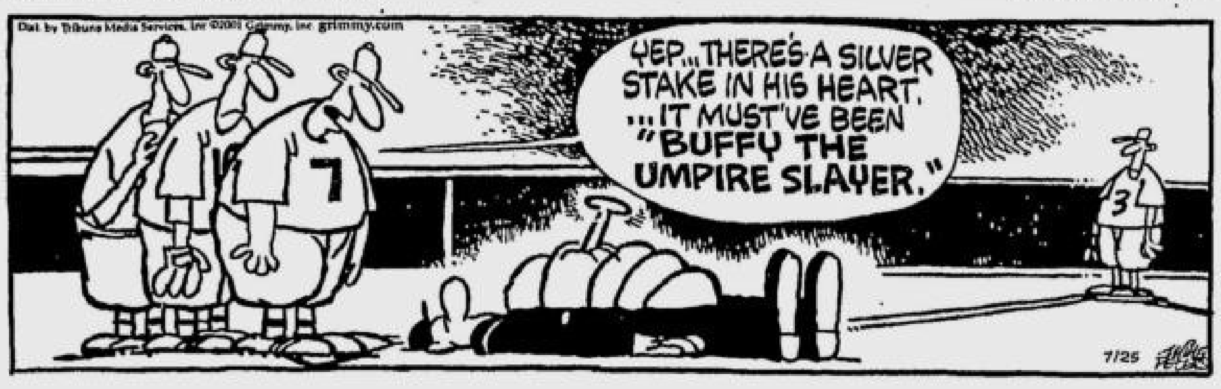
But moving on to your problem. I think you should try your luck with Little Miss Goddess. Sure, she could be immune to the ratio scare but you don't know the type of guy she'd like. Maybe she gets attracted to senior geeks like you, although I advice you to take the necessary precautions when you do decide to charm (not court!) her. What Caloy told you was excellent: Be sneaky and underhanded. Don't play too fair by going the usual "*ligaw*" and "*pa*-cute" path; it's not safe for you. Instead, be her fool, her clown or her snooty Mr. Darcy and worm your way into her unsuspecting heart. Good luck.

SEP

COMIC Relief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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YEP... THERE'S A SILVER STAKE IN HIS HEART. ...IT MUST'VE BEEN "BUFFY THE UMPIRE SLAYER."
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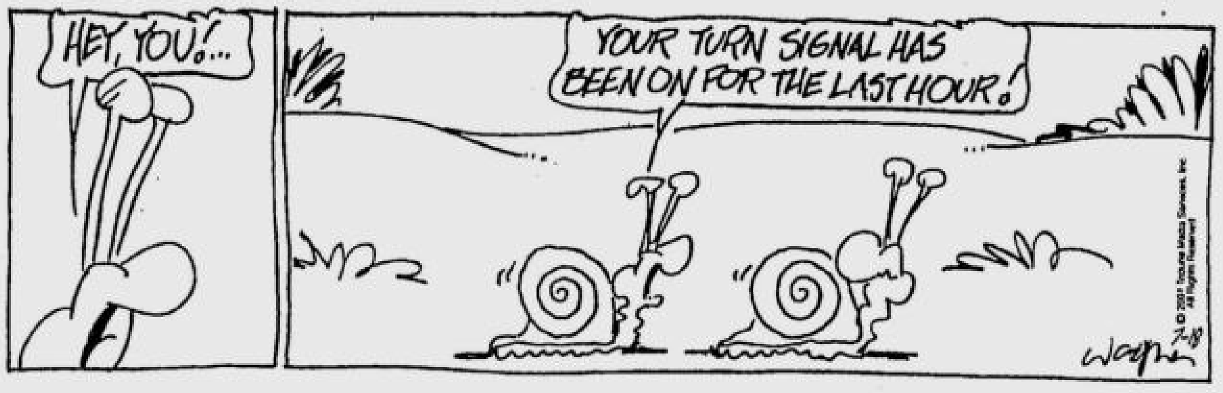
7/25

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


HEY, YOU!...
YOUR TURN SIGNAL HAS BEEN ON FOR THE LAST HOUR!
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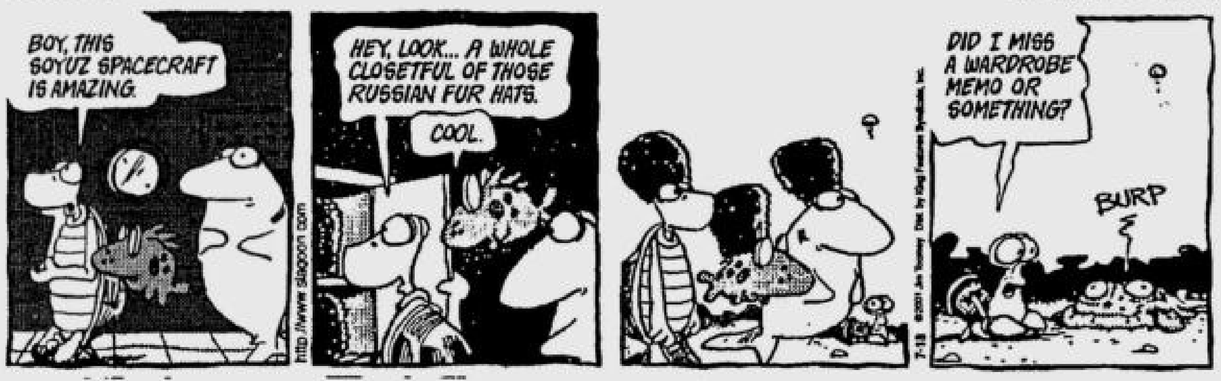
7-18
wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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COOL.
DID I MISS A WARDROBE MEMO OR SOMETHING?
BURP
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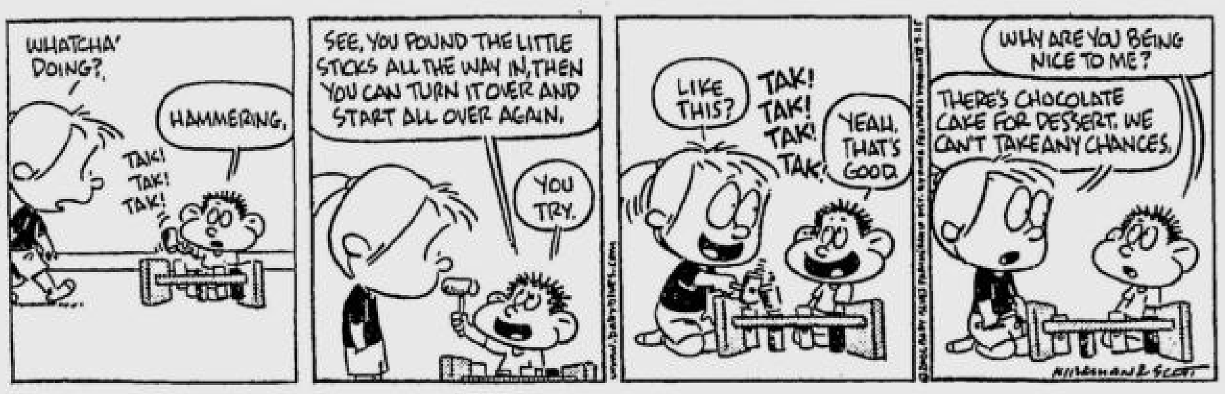
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Valerie Harper, John Lee Hooker, Ray Bradbury, Norman Schwarzkopf, Tori Amos

Happy Birthday: You are ready to move fast and furiously into the future. If you've done your preparation well, this could be your time to shine. If not, you will learn from the experience so that next time you will be able to take full advantage of your good fortune. Your numbers: 3, 5, 16, 22, 28, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your partner will be annoyed if you insist on playing the odds with your cash. Some good financial opportunities are around, but your need to take the fast route will lead to losses.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Business prospects look enticing. Expect responsibilities and a new title. Don't give co-workers information about your personal life. They may use it against you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to get back into the swing of things. Problems at home may lead to confusion or sudden changes in living arrangements. Be prepared to do what's best for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you live with won't be too stable today. Try to give him or her space, and get out and do something relaxing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's a good idea to spend time putting your house back in order. Residential moves or changes are easy if you put your mind to it. Don't let your job or colleagues get you down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Friends, children or group activities will cost you dearly today. Don't let your generosity be another person's gain. You can stabilize your relationship by spending time together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be anxious and jump to conclusions regarding your personal life. Concentrate on your career where you can make a difference, and let personal dilemmas alone for the time being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Expect peers to lead you astray if they get the chance. Make decisions based on facts and think twice before acting upon hearsay.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make a difference by spending time on a worthwhile cause. Remember, spend your time, not cash. You may be confused regarding problems that older relatives are facing.

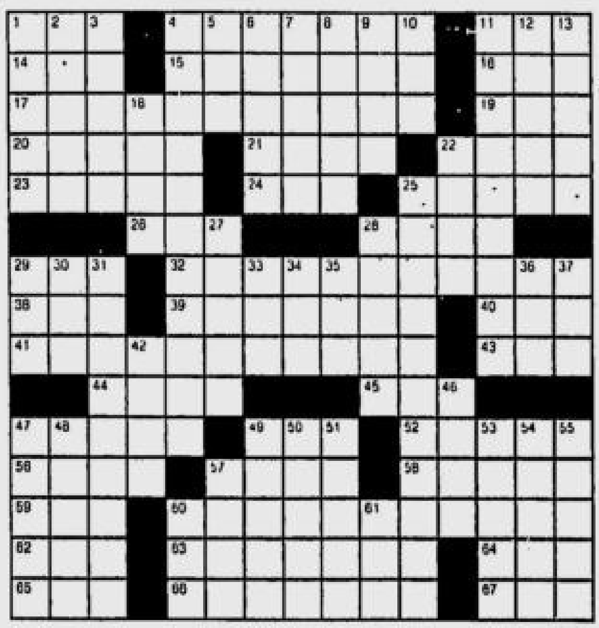
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not the day to question others. Just do your own thing and stay out of trouble. Actions speak louder than words, and your mate is looking for results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need stimulating, educational experiences that will offer some insight into future trends. Look into challenging seminars or courses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be too eager to part with your money. Be careful that others don't take advantage. Problems with government officials will not be what you had in mind. Make sure that your books are in order.

Birthday Baby: You are a thinker as well as a looker. You have what it takes to be great if you focus on the most enjoyable pursuits and refrain from letting that slight laziness keep you from being fully successful.

DAILY CROSSWORD



7/6/01

ACROSS
1 Flap gums
4 Pilchard
11 To the point
14 Summertime drink
15 Gene of "Laura"
16 Motor vehicle
17 Steak cut
19 Status __
20 Flynn of "Captain Blood"
21 Hertz rival
22 Lollapalooza
23 Kingdom
24 Money on the line
25 Armed robbery
26 __ Alamos
28 Flexibility
29 Eisenhower
32 Planners
38 Singer Damone
39 Silly
40 Pigeon call
41 Impassive
43 Uncountable years
44 Nudnik
45 Fall mo.
47 Struck powerfully
49 Actress Ryan
52 Drags forcibly
56 Shortens, as a skirt
57 Walk through water
58 Beginning
59 Boxer Muhammad
60 Hideous oddity
62 Cylindrical hat
63 Cape on the Bay of Biscay
64 Org. of Capitals and Senators
65 Driving area
66 Similar things
67 Thousand bucks

DOWN
1 Rubbernecker
2 Worship
3 Former Yankee Yogi
4 Corposant
5 Broadcast
6 Ford Clinic, e.g.
7 Took the wheel
8 Eskimo
9 Monster's loch
10 Scope out
11 Comply without protest
12 Gauguin and Simon
13 Rainbow fish
18 Turnpike payment
22 Son of Leah
25 Some learning institutions
27 Arose
28 Painter's base
29 __ been had!
30 Rudyard Kipling book
31 Cut costs
33 Howard of "Happy Days"
34 That's __ folks!
35 Cravat
36 In addition
37 Male heir
42 Vietnamese holidays
46 Soaks up some rays
47 Stream of light
48 Donnybrook
49 Marine ray
50 One of the Fords
51 Square one
53 Employing
54 River through Hades
55 Technique
57 Threadbare
60 Extinct, flightless bird
61 Jazz piece

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	C	R	E	■	S	O	L	I	D	■	S	E	A	R
W	H	E	Y	■	L	I	A	N	A	■	P	A	L	E
L	I	B	E	R	A	L	I	T	Y	■	O	T	I	S
S	N	A	P	O	N	■	C	A	R	■	C	U	B	E
■	■	■	I	A	G	O	■	C	O	C	K	P	I	T
R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R	■	■	■	■
E	R	I	C	■	D	E	N	■	M	A	S	S	E	Y
F	I	D	E	L	■	S	I	T	■	W	H	A	L	E
S	E	E	S	A	W	■	T	O	T	■	O	R	A	L
■	■	■	■	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	P	I	L	L
T	I	M	P	A	N	I	■	S	M	U	G	■	■	■
O	N	C	E	■	D	R	E	■	B	L	I	M	P	S
N	E	C	K	■	B	A	R	R	E	L	R	O	L	L
E	R	O	O	■	A	N	G	E	R	■	L	I	E	U
S	T	Y	E	■	G	A	S	P	S	■	S	L	A	M

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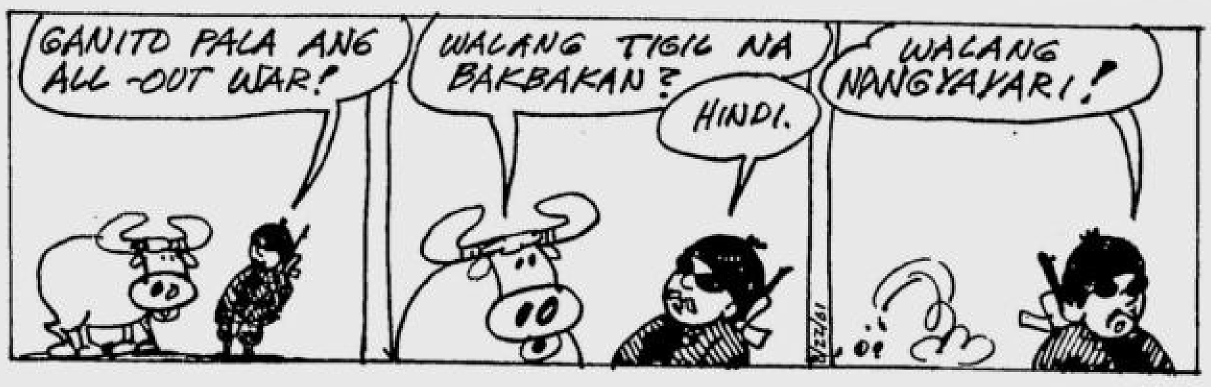
7/6/01

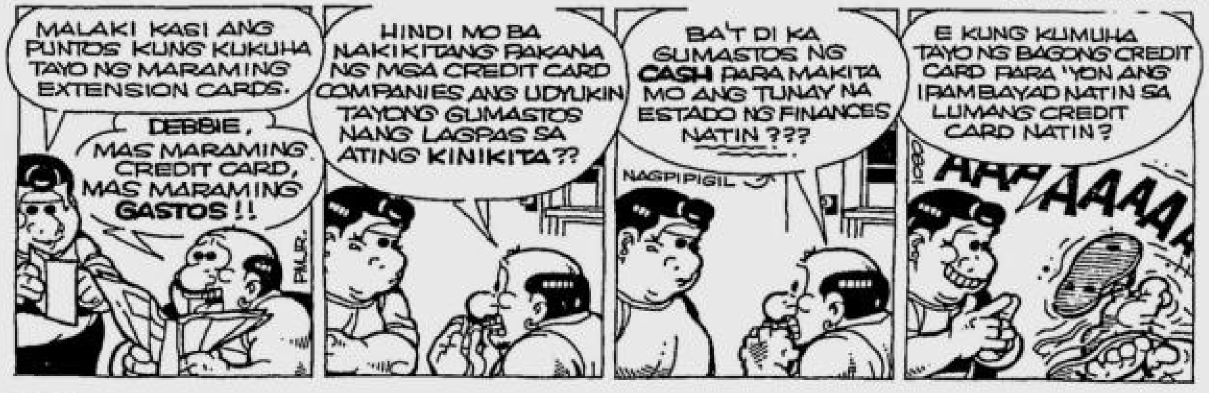
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GANITO PALA ANG ALL-OUT WAR!
WALANG TIGIL NA BAKBAKAN?
HINDI.
8/22/01
WALANG NANGYAYARI!

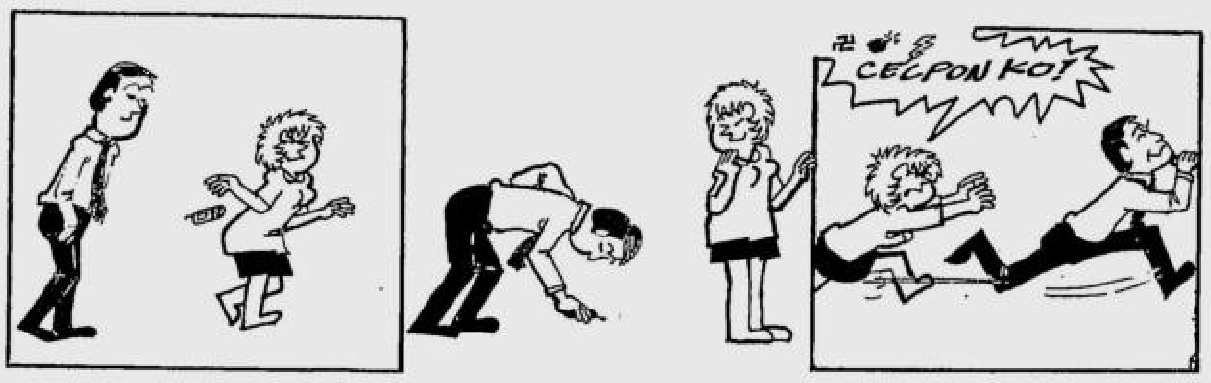
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALAKI KASI ANG PUNTOS KUNG KUKUHA TAYO NG MARAMING EXTENSION CARDS.
DEBBIE, MAS MARAMING CREDIT CARD, MAS MARAMING GASTOS!!
P.M.JR.
HINDI MO BA NAKIKITANG PAKANA NG MGA CREDIT CARD COMPANIES ANG UDYUKIN TAYONG GUMASTOS NANG LAGPAS SA ATING KINIKITA??
BA'T DI KA GUMASTOS NG CASH PARA MAKITA MO ANG TUNAY NA ESTADO NG FINANCES NATIN???
NAGPIPIGIL
E KUNG KUMUHA TAYO NG BAGONG CREDIT CARD PARA 'YON ANG IPAMBAYAD NATIN SA LUMANG CREDIT CARD NATIN?
ARRAAAAA

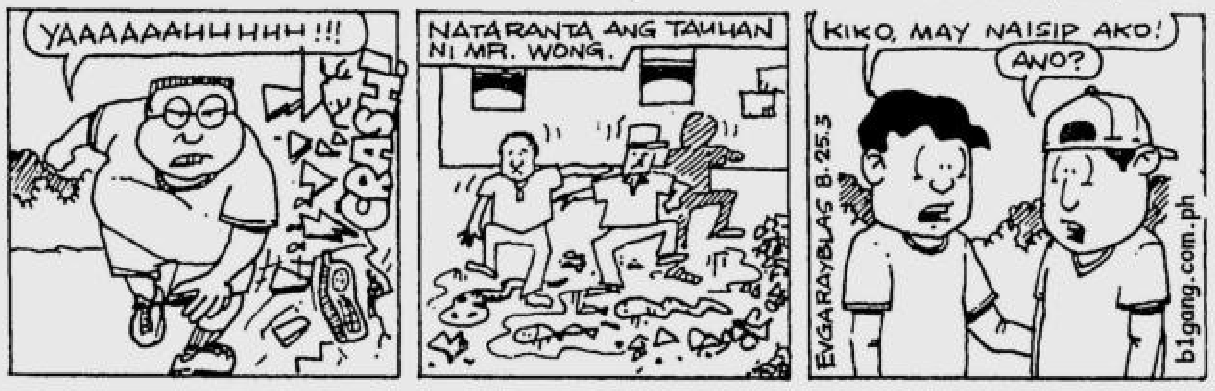
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



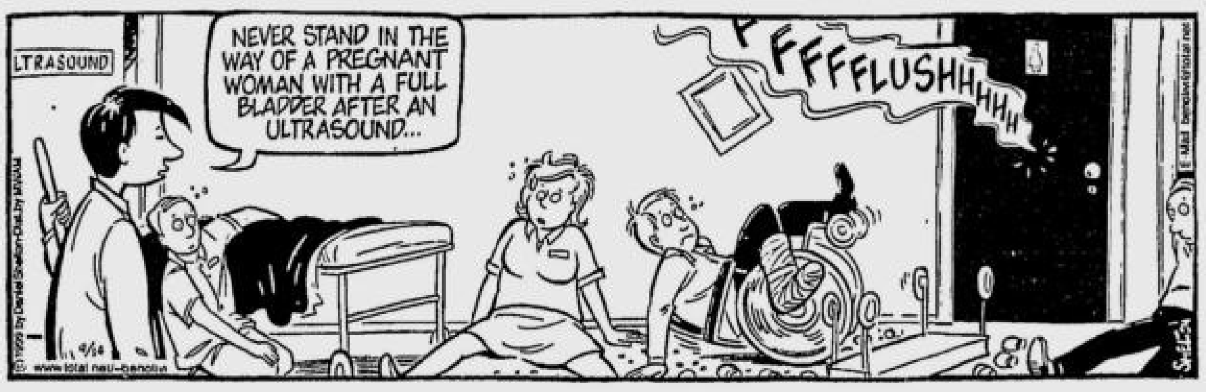
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


YAAAAAAHHHHH!!!
CRASH
NATARANTA ANG TAUHAN NI MR. WONG.
KIKO, MAY NAISIP AKO!
ANO?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.25.3
b1gang.com.ph

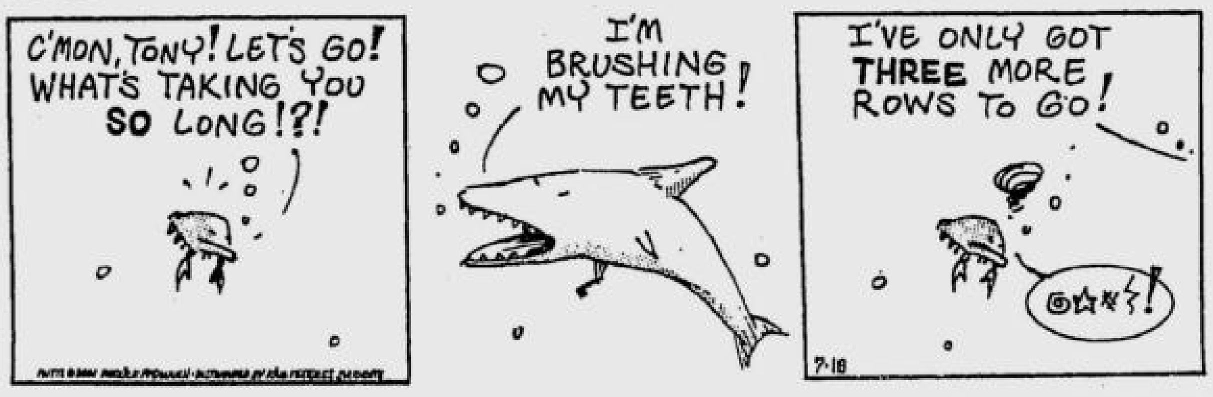
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LTRASOUND
NEVER STAND IN THE WAY OF A PREGNANT WOMAN WITH A FULL BLADDER AFTER AN ULTRASOUND...
FFFFLUSHHHHH
www.total.net/~benonline

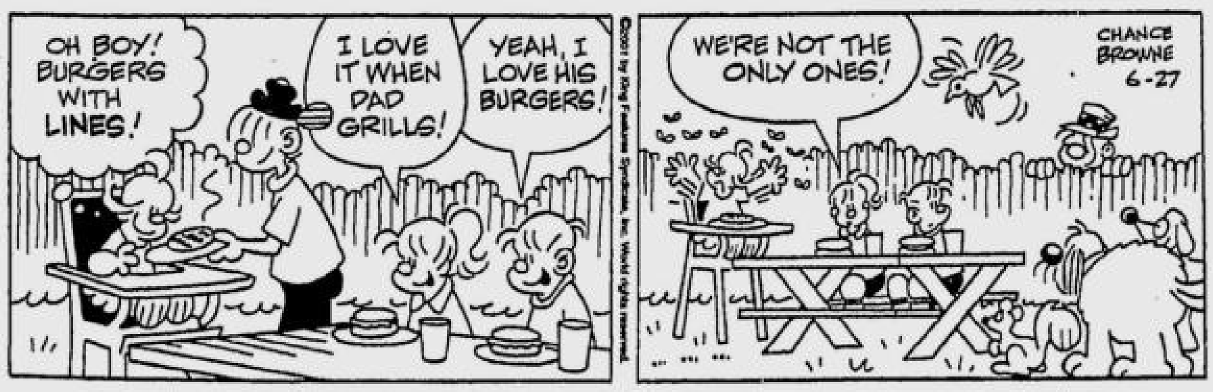
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


C'MON, TONY! LET'S GO! WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG!?!
I'M BRUSHING MY TEETH!
I'VE ONLY GOT THREE MORE ROWS TO GO!
G☆#$!
7-18

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


OH BOY! BURGERS WITH LINES!
I LOVE IT WHEN DAD GRILLS!
YEAH, I LOVE HIS BURGERS!
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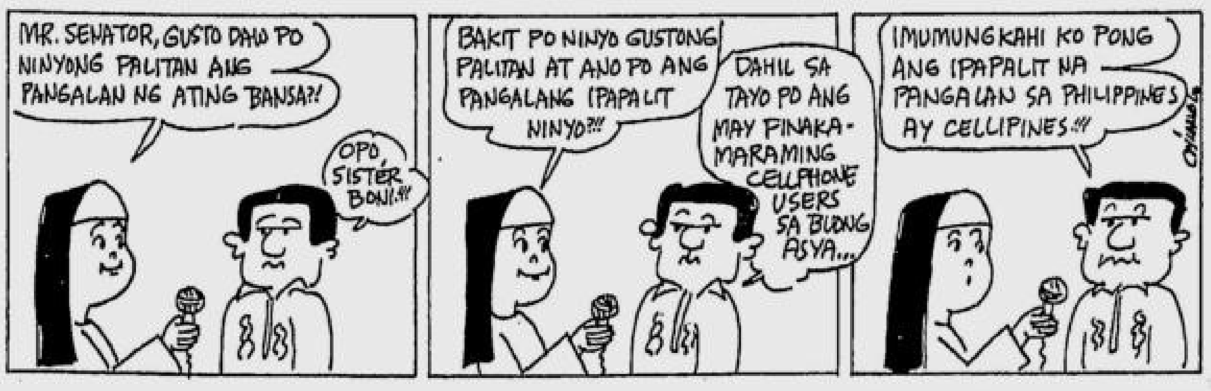
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES!
CHANCE BROWNE 6-27

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. SENATOR, GUSTO DAW PO NINYONG PALITAN ANG PANGALAN NG ATING BANSA?!
OPO, SISTER BONI.!!
BAKIT PO NINYO GUSTONG PALITAN AT ANO PO ANG PANGALANG IPAPALIT NINYO?!!
DAHIL SA TAYO PO ANG MAY PINAKA-MARAMING CELLPHONE USERS SA BUONG ASYA...
IMUMUNGKAHI KO PONG ANG IPAPALIT NA PANGALAN SA PHILIPPINES AY CELLIPINES!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

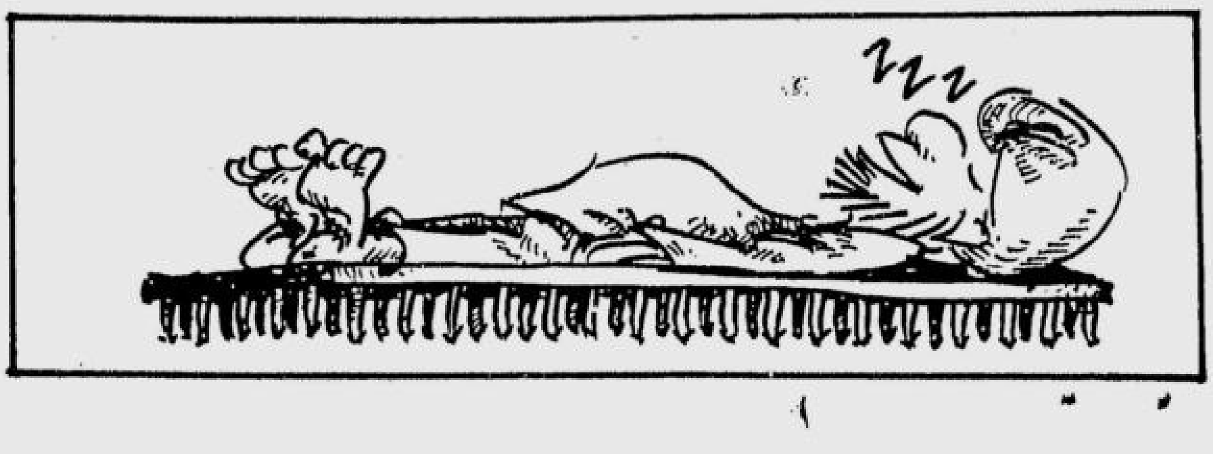


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Not another environment article

By M Macasieb

BEFORE YOU turn the page and dismiss this article as another piece ranting about saving an unheard-of animal specie or the perils of pollution, I want to assure you you won't be receiving a reprimand. Nor will you be reading something out of an Environmental Science textbook.

Okay, so why do we have to save the seems-like-it's-doomed-anyway environment? Some people do it for the cute furry animals, others because they just love nature. But for the rest of us ordinary citizens of the earth who don't give a hoot for that whale or that river, we must ask ourselves, does this issue really concern us?

The answer is yes. It affects our money and our lives.

First, let's talk about the money. Environmentalism is just economics at its most basic. Before you can get money for your goods, you must have the goods first. We earn money through the goods we sell, things that ultimately come from the earth's resources. We must ensure those resources will still be available for our use. Exploiting irresponsibly is good only for the short term, not for the long term.

Look at our denuded mountains. After the logging companies have exploited them for their trees, they don't bother to replant. Now those mountains, instead of growing trees that could once again be sold for money, stand idle and useless. Good sense dictates we should repair what we destroy.

Save the environment. Save money and lives

Sustainable development is exploiting responsibly. We not only save the environment, but also make use of our resources and help our economy grow. It is ensuring that our resources don't run out. Our country is already poor. We cannot afford to lose our resources, our source of income.

And now for the second reason: Our lives. Let's not forget we are intimately linked with and very much dependent on this planet and its resources. Before we can live to work, study, love and appreciate life, we must first breathe safe air, drink safe water, be exposed to safe sun. We should be allowed to live.

I'm not asking you to just drop all you're doing and go join Captain Planet. Go on with your lives, but be aware of the role you have and the responsibility in your hands. We all consume, we all generate waste. And all of us are affected by the dismal state of our environment. Conserving the environment is not just the earth lover's job, but everyone's.

Environmentalism doesn't mean we have to be narrow-minded. We don't have to be hardliners. I am an environmentalist and I often wonder why people instantly link that to "forest ranger" or naked Greenpeace protesters or extreme nature lovers. I am just a concerned human being who wants to live and enjoy all that life can offer me.

Filipina is a US Naval Academy cadet

(From page C3)

it is lights out for plebes, and a zonked but fulfilled Rea falls into bed.

Old friends, new friends

Despite her hectic schedule, Rea has managed to keep in touch with her high school friends and family by telephone, snail mail and e-mail. Her stay in the academy has, of course, added to her list of loved ones.

After tree months in the USNA, Rea has made quite a number of friends, including the seven other foreign nationals in her class—from Peru, Estonia, Turkey, Romania, Maldives and Honduras—and the Americans.

Ethnicity, religion and gender are not issues in the USNA and all cadets are treated equally. Rea is one of the youngest in the class of mostly 19- and 20-year-olds. She is fondly referred to as the "baby" of the class.

Now, after getting into the routine of her new life in the USNA, Rea has adjusted well and is quite happy. She says she has absolutely no regrets about her decision to study at the USNA and she hopes her story will inspire other teens to work hard at making their dreams come true. As she has learned for herself, it is possible to turn dreams into reality.

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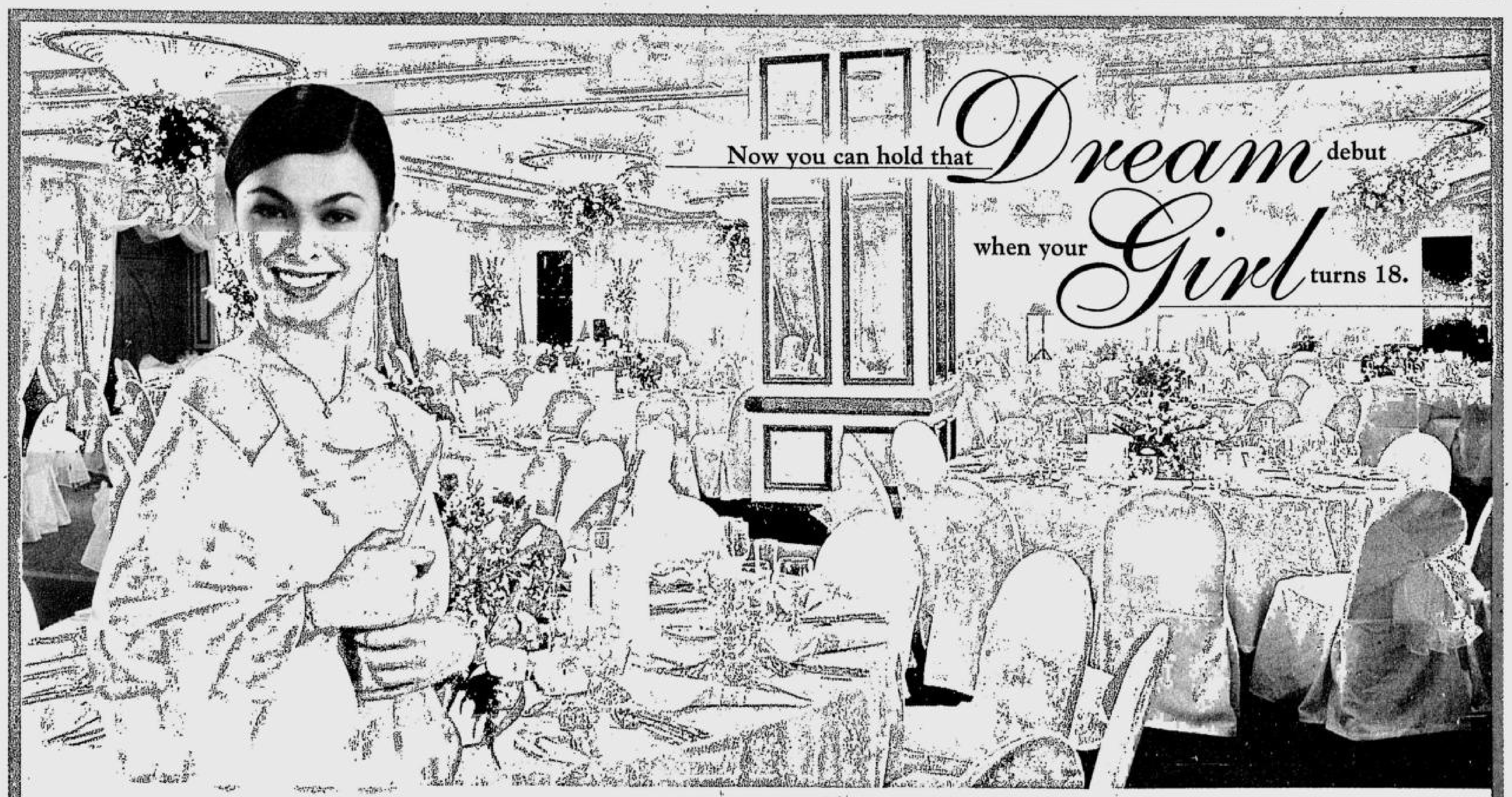

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A shopper's delight

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

THE MAIN reason I became a beauty columnist was to help people look super for less as often as possible. Contrary to what most fashion magazines imply most of the time, the most expensive stuff isn't always the best. I have pretty much tackled beauty products, now I will tackle clothes.

Despite the sky-high exchange rate of the US dollar to the peso, so many people I know are traveling abroad mostly to the US. I have come across a very helpful article in a fashion magazine, which mentions what goes on sale at US stores every month. Please cut this out, as it will stretch your budget the next time you travel. Know when to buy what you need or always wanted.

January. It's clearance time, meaning up to 80 percent off, for fall to winter outerwear, accessories such as hats, gloves, scarves, winter shoes and boots, slightly reduced furs which are real and faux.

Advice: Take advantage of the boots and shoes, but go easy on the other accessories because unless you travel regularly, where and when are you going to wear them? People get ridiculed for wearing hats in the Philippines, and Baguio seldom drops lower than 65°F at its coldest. Do buy a good winter coat to keep you warm over there, but stick to a neutral color such as camel, black, charcoal or, at the flashiest, a nice deep red that goes great with dark hair.

February. Resort wear (ski suits, beanies, snow goggles), winter boots, cashmere sweaters and fine jewelry. Personally, I prefer buying jewelry in Hong Kong, but if the US is where you are on Valentine's Day it will be a good idea to lead your husbands to the jewelry stores to check out the items on sale. This is the season for those who love cashmere sweaters, so take advantage.

March. Handbags, raincoats and suits. This is the month I go gaga over shopping because I love bags and the fit of the suits is much more flattering than the ones we buy here that are off the rack. Rain jackets I also get to maximize during our rainy season so I buy with the belief I can use everything.

April. Spring dresses, silk separates and more raincoats. The dresses are perfect for nine months of warm, humid Philippine weather, but if you are not mad about flowers opt for the solid colors of the season such as lime, fuchsia, orange and yellow. Floral prints only look right in the Philippines during summer, which is March to June. Rainy months from July to October call for darker colors.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

May. Spring suits, handbags, swimsuits and footwear (mostly open-toe shoes). For those who have corporate jobs, the suits are perfect for the Philippines for their lighter and cooler material. Take advantage of the shoes you can wear all year round till they fall apart from overuse. Swimsuits also fit better and last longer. Handbag colors may be too bright and can only be used during summer as they will look too casual the rest of the year. But only one or two at the most if you really want them. It is wiser to go for a neutral like camel or butter beige.

June. More swimwear, summer dresses and casual wear like shorts, T-shirts and denims. Classic summer colors are khaki and white, which are also versatile enough to wear year round in the daytime or weekends. The items sold are actually staple outfits here in the Philippines for both sexes. Don't splurge too much on T-shirts because the Philippines has a lot of choices, which come out cheaper. Pants, of course, are a sound investment because they seem to have a knack for fitting better, especially if your lower body is not super skinny.

Months July to December to be published next week

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Exploring offbeat sites

www.zenzibar.com

BY ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO

DO you want to look for offbeat sites that are unheard of? Tricky question. Unless you are already on the verge of losing your senses, finding a site you don't know about may seem absurd.

For your information, there is a lot of interesting topics out there waiting to be discovered on the Net if you just know where to look for it. These are the sites that range from the radical-weird-bizarre-obscure-cryptic to more distinct topics that are alien to you. From witchcraft and ghosts to the hippie, punk and rave culture to the spiritual practices of yoga and Shamanism. How about nanotechnology, tantra and ayurveda? If you want to know what on earth is that then don't ask me.

Go à la agent Moulder or Scully and explore the unknown as you unlock more distinct sites in the realm of www.zenzibar.com, the portal to western mainstream culture in cyberspace. The site was created to make alternative websites easily accessible.

ZENZIBAR
The Dangers of Being Certain
GO

Zenzibar has categories in arts and entertainment, business and economy, health, lifestyles, politics and government, spiritual practices and philosophy, science and technology and general alternatives. All you have to do is choose the subcategories, click the topic you are interested in, then presto! All the URLs about the topic will be given to you. But if you don't know what exactly you are looking for, then you can browse the alphabetical list of all categories from Alien to Zen. Every week the site chooses four or five exceptional websites that might appeal to you.

You can also read the articles and editorials in the archives and react through posting and exchanging your views on alternative culture subjects to like-minded people in the Zenzibar salon. I suggest you also read the article on "The Dangers of Being Certain" by Royce Carlson, the founder of the site, because it will give you second thoughts on the way you ascertain yourself. Zenzibar has 108 categories and 4,038 site listings to choose from, with a growing list of subdirectories added each month. Twenty-three new sites were added last week so you'll never ran out of sites to check out.

The site presents another world beyond the one most of us perceive. Some of the links in every category present views you may or may not agree with. If you can deal with the topics without freaking out, then proceed and digest all the information you can get. Zenzibar can shed light on vague topics through all the site links you opt to visit.

If you are tired of your mundane existence, then this site will surely influence the way you want to live your life because it will give you choices of living, playing, working—even worshipping. Just take it easy or someday you might just end up in an asylum.

Stay tuned to the calendar of alternative events from alternative art and music to political and spiritual events. One of the upcoming events is the five-day Burning Man Festival—a festival of art, community and radical self-expression that will start at the end of the month.

Zenzibar is your most useful source for whatever topics beyond the mainstream. And maybe after constantly visiting the links on the topics, you will have a broader understanding of everything that surrounds your existence. Or perhaps, you will live life in with different perspective now.

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For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

to be you • to be young • to be young • to be • To be you!

Crouching muscle, hidden joint —or how I survived yoga

Story on page D2

For one afternoon, 2bU!'s resident couch potatoes try yoga and find out what the fuss is all about. Now, please, somebody give them the oxygen

VANDOL RASH-PROOFING TIPS

When baby's diaper gets really wet and baby's skin gets soaked up for a long time, don't put diapers again immediately. Expose baby's skin for 15 to 30 minutes to allow it to breathe, then apply Vitamins A and D Vandol before you put new diapers.

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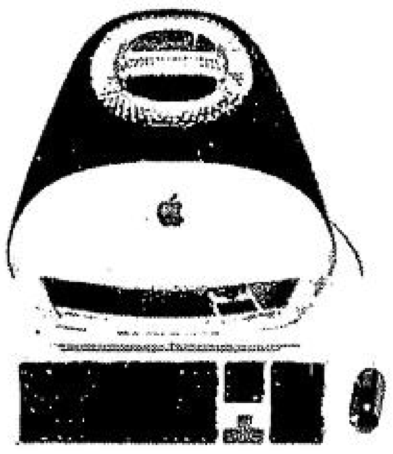

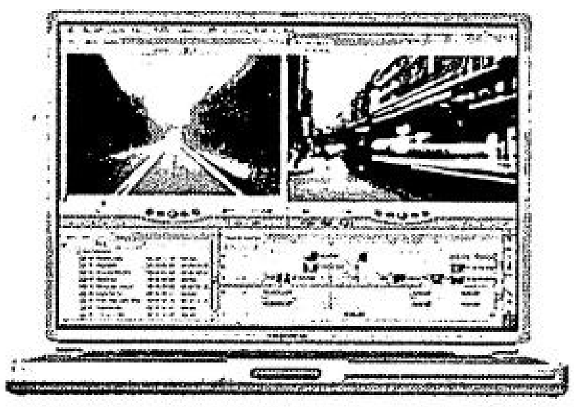

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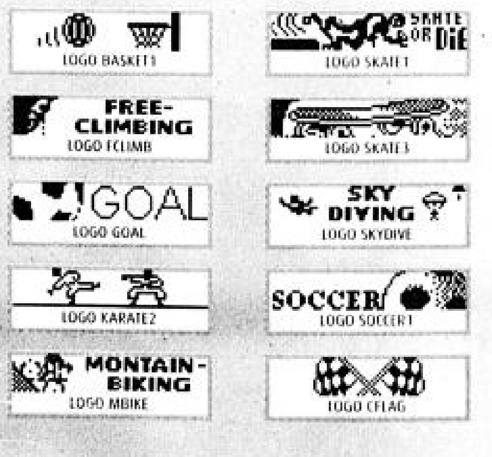
Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest add-ons for **SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text** subscribers. Download them today and get a chance to win prizes from Get zed! Get loaded! To register, type in **JOIN GETZ <name>/<address> and send to 288**. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

top ten ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	STRANGE LOVE	DEPECHE MODE	TONE STRNGELV
2	SWEET CHILD OF MINE	GUNS 'N ROSES	TONE SWEETCHI
3	I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER	MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING	TONE SAYALIL
4	DREAMING OF YOU	SELENA	TONE DRMOFU
5	LOVE ME FOR A REASON	BOYZONE	TONE LUV4RISN
6	BREAKOUT	SWINGOUT SISTERS	TONE BRKOUT
7	ALL STAR	SMASHMOUTH	TONE ALLSTAR
8	BETTER OFF ALONE	ALICE DEE JAY/DJ JUR GEN	TONE OFFALONE
9	THE FINAL COUNTDOWN	EUROPE	TONE FINALCNT
10	THE IMPERIAL MARCH	THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK	TONE IMPERIAL

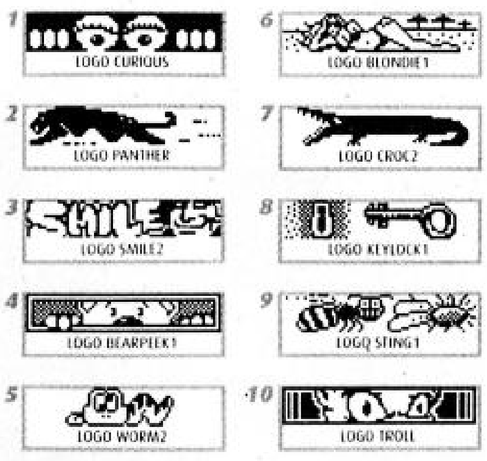
new logos



new ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	CALIFORNICATION	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	TONE CALIFORNI
2	CARELESS WHISPER	GEORGE MICHAEL	TONE CARELESS
3	THE CENTRE OF THE HEART	ROXETTE	TONE CENTRHART
4	CLOSE TO YOU	CARPENTERS	TONE CLOSE2U
5	DIAMONDS AND PEARLS	PRINCE	TONE DIAMONDS
6	FRIENDS THEME	THE REMBRANDTS	TONE FRIENDS
7	FUNKY TOWN	LIPPS INC	TONE FUNKYTWN
8	GROOVE IS IN THE HEART	DEE-LITE	TONE GROOVEIS
9	HOLIDAY	MADONNA	TONE HOLIDAY
10	HOT STUFF	DONNA SUMMER	TONE HOTSTUFF

top ten logos



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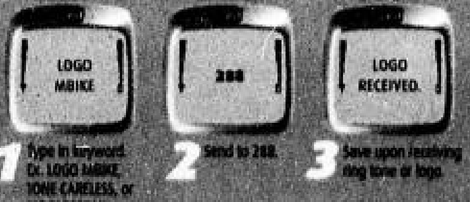

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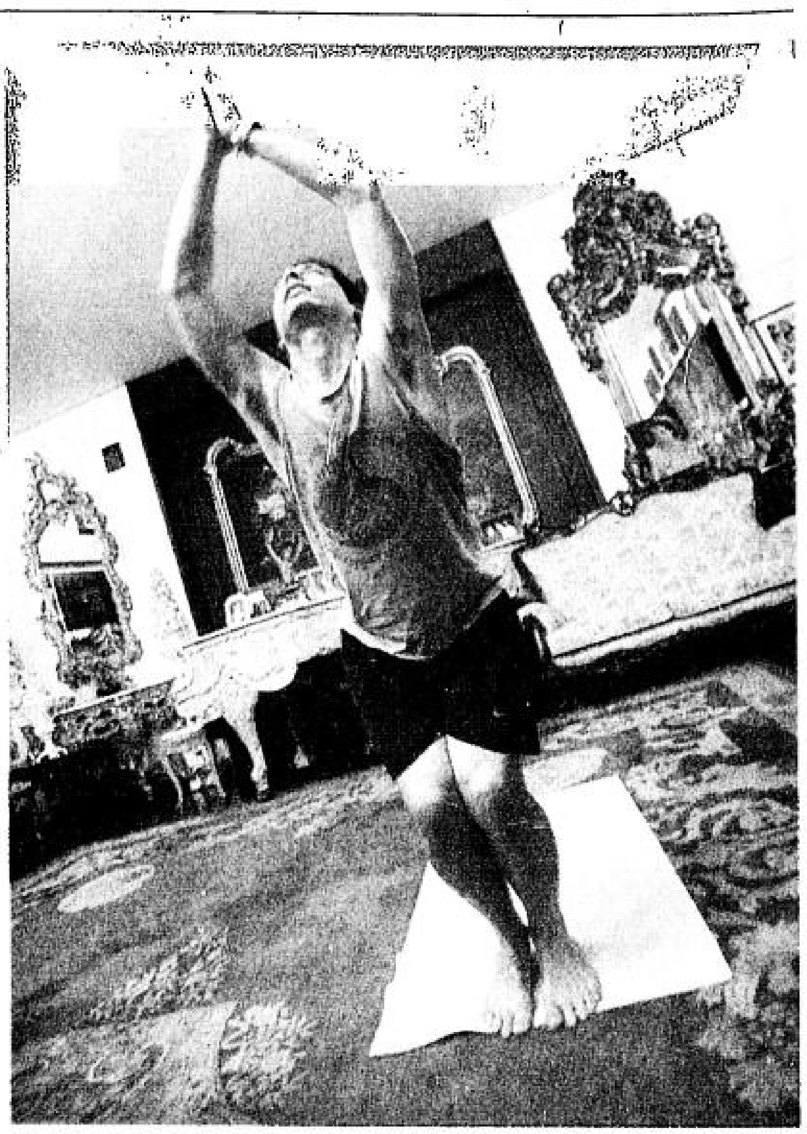
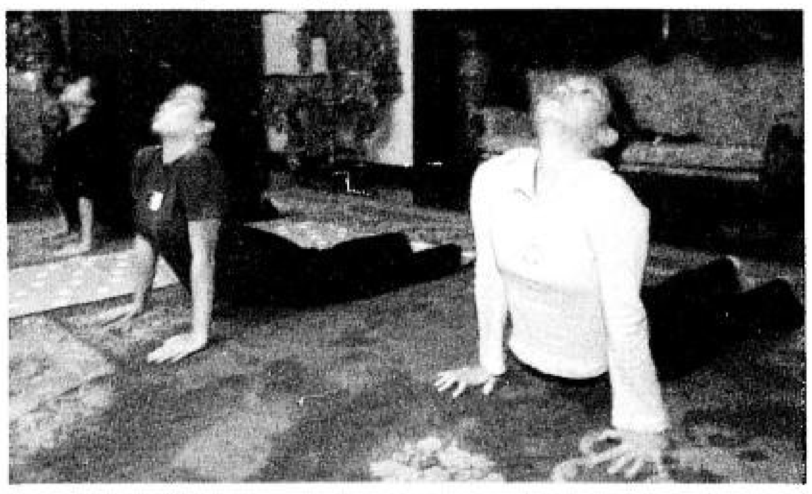
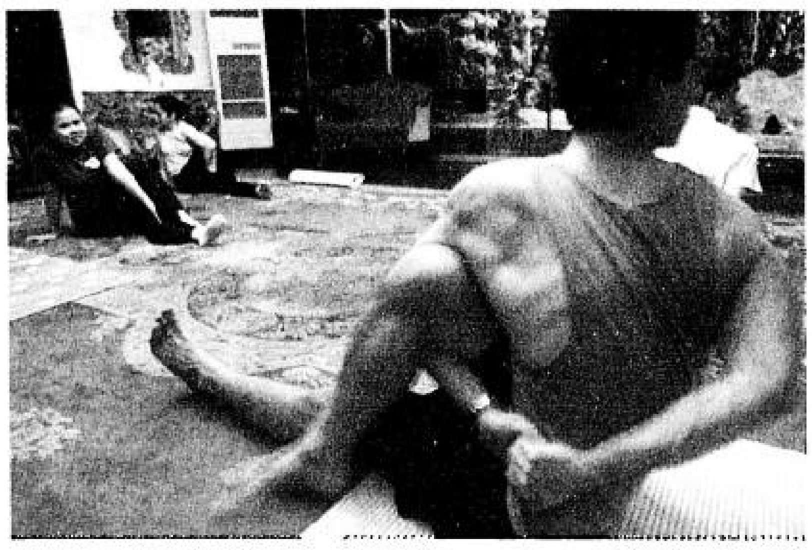
Crouching muscle, hidden joint—or how I survived yoga



YOGA master for the day—Jon Jon Rufino

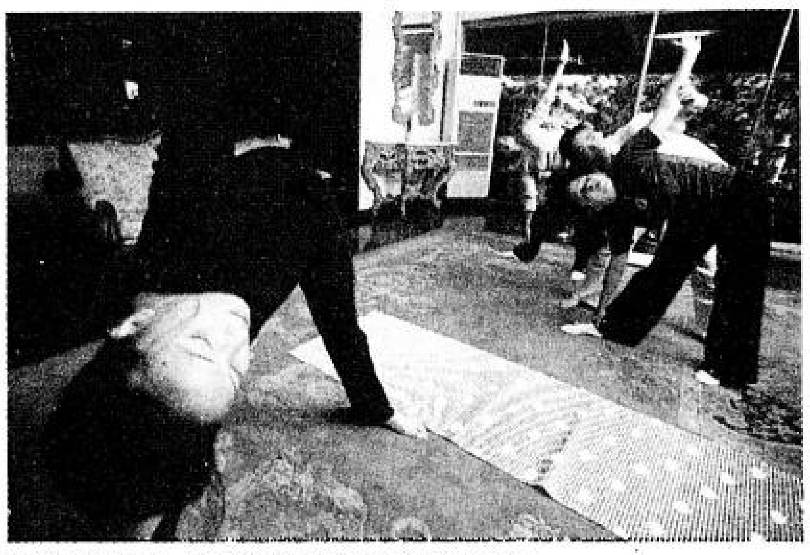


TRY doing the Darth Vader mode of breathing while in this position.



KIDS, don't try this at home.

PHOTOS: JOAN BONDOC



LOOK closely—we could barely reach our ankles.

By Jules Alcantara

BREATHING.

I never realized the importance of breathing until last Saturday when some of the 2bU! correspondents took (or to be more accurate, attempted to take) their first yoga class.

There we were, Pam and I, yoga first-timers, eagerly anticipating our class with our yoga master for the afternoon, Jon Jon Rufino. I had to stop myself from hopping and skipping as we entered the Rufinos' sprawling residence. I took ballet when I was 4—yoga should be fun and easy, I told myself. It's just chanting, saying "ohm" several times and bending your limbs a bit. I am quite familiar with the yoga position myself—it's the position I make every time I am busy munching on my potato chips while watching a video. I have this theory that doing the lotus position while munching on Doritos shaves the calorie-intake.

For almost a year now, I had been contemplating on taking yoga—but I never really got around to enrolling in a class. And truth to tell, the idea of taking yoga classes sounded safer (meaning easier, let me stress) as compared to taebo or aerobics. Hey, what can I say? I am a certified couch potato—exercise for me is walking from one store to another while shopping.

So anyway, there we were, almost out of breath as we hurriedly entered the room where the yoga class was being held. Lo and behold, we saw Happy David, clad in all black, performing a yoga position—with beads of perspiration pouring down here face, sweating… really sweating.

Uh oh, I thought, this is not a good sign. I had been known to go to extreme measures just to avoid situations where sweat or perspiration was part of the equation. Asthma, dysmennorrhea, fainting, throwing a tantrum—these were some of my tactics. Well, let's just say I was too much of a coward that I couldn't resort to any of my squid tactics.

And I didn't want to give my boyfriend an excuse to call me chicken.

Yoda and Darth Vader mode

Right after Pam and I took our places, Jon Jon instructed as to straighten our body, tighten our ass and stomach and breathe through our nose. We were supposed to tighten our "*bandas*"—this is supposed to induce heat within our bodies. Sounds easy and erotic, right? Far from it, especially if you have a flabby stomach and lived through life thinking that exercise is an alien concept.

Pam and I exchanged looks. I could see fear in her eyes. And I was sure she knew I just wanted to faint right there and then. But Jon Jon's soothing voice was so calming I actually got lulled into thinking it was all going to be a breeze. "Imagine a string is pulling your spine upward," he said. "Breathe through your nose. You are supposed to sound like Darth Vader."

I almost laughed out loud. To make a conscious effort to breathe through the nose, to groan and make a snoring sound sounded so funny and to be honest… embarrassing. I had to stifle a giggle attack.

As we started to execute Jon Jon's instructions, the urge to laugh and giggle disappeared. Among other things, our yoga master asked us to reach for our feet—I could barely reach my calf. My leg was trembling—I could hear my muscles shouting for mercy. My bones were clicking and cracking—my joints were making sounds that almost drove me to tell my boyfriend to dial 911 or the Makati Med paramedics. I could hear Pam groaning and muttering to herself. This wasn't fun anymore.

Out of shape

Then it dawned on me that I was so way out of shape that it was short of a miracle my muscles had not yet atrophied. Let me just clarify. The positions were not very hard to execute. It was just that apart from being out of shape, I was not focused enough to listen and really understand the instructions.

Then Jon told us, as we were struggling with "The Tree" position (put your leg nearest to your groin, while standing up), to focus on a stationary spot. And, indeed, it helped. Okay, so I was still trembling but, hey, I was able to keep my leg up and stand on one foot. Of course, I was sweating like a pig but for the record, I didn't stumble or laugh or faint.

It was such a rush! Not because I was able to execute the position without getting injured or falling flat on my face, but by focusing, I began to feel calm and centered. It was like I was in some zone and every thing in the background just faded into a blur. There was a feeling of—detachment, for lack of a better word. And the irony of it all was that I was never so aware of every throb, of every movement that my limbs and joints made—up until that very moment.

Afterward I let out a loud groan.

Tim, the stylishly clad assistant yoga master, pointed to his nose and reminded us, "Breathe through your nose. And make that Darth Vader sound."

If only the force was with us.

Going vegan in 5 easy steps

By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

DO you know Dawn Schafer? If you were at one time a member of the Babysitters Club like I was, you would know who I am talking about.

Dawn, my personal favorite among babysitters, was a health nut and a true individual. I admire her discipline and self-confidence, attributes not usually found in pubescent girls undergoing an identity crisis and hormonal changes.

Growing up, I tried to follow Dawn's example. At this point, I believe I can shove modesty aside and say I have been quite successful in achieving my individuality. (It also helps I went to the University of the Philippines where eccentricity is championed.)

As to being a health nut, however, I can only say I am a work in progress. I was brought up a meat-eater. Like most children, I detested healthy, nutritious stuff and preferred candy and junk food. Less nutritious foods just seemed to taste better. Characters like Dawn, fictional or otherwise, piqued my interest in their uncommon diets.

I have always liked to think of myself as a conscientious and caring person. And I'm proud to say that the desire for self-improvement is a constant in my life. But although I would like to be in the pink of health, both in body and soul, that is not the main reason I chose to follow Dawn's example and become a vegetarian. I am a sworn animal lover (not counting roaches, I suppose) and intend to be an animal rights advocate as well.

Halfway there

Intention is the key word. As I have already mentioned, I haven't been completely transformed yet. The best I can do now is to proclaim I do not eat red meat anymore. I am what you might call a semi-vegetarian. I still eat chicken, fish and other seafoods, although only occasionally. My goal is to become a lacto-vegetarian, one who also eats dairy products.

Vegetarianism is not as simple as avoiding meat. There are several ways to go about it. A vegan or a pure vegetarian is not supposed to take any product that comes from animals, including milk and eggs. Other kinds of vegetarian are: Lacto-vegetarian—my goal as I have mentioned; ovo-vegetarian—eats eggs; lacto-ovo-vegetarian—eats eggs and milk products; pescetarian—eats fish; fruitarian—only eats fruits and vegetables that do not destroy the plants where they came from.

We will not even discuss vegetarians who only consume organically grown things and follow a macrobiotic diet (stuff that is supposed to keep your body in harmony with nature).

Way of life

Before I actually reached this stage of semi-vegetarianism, I went through several vain attempts in the past. I have my sister to thank for joining me in my crusade to shun the carcasses of slaughtered animals.

You should have a certain resolve if you want to become a vegan. In most cases, it is not merely a diet, but a way of life. You have to plan how you are going to approach the whole transition. Here are tips on how you can change your eating habits:

1. Announce—Let it be known to family and friends that you have decided to stop eating God's creatures. It makes quitting later more embarrassing. You might also surround yourself with sensitive and considerate people who would not drag you to burger joints or offer you hotdogs and bacon, thus helping you avoid temptation.

2. Be knowledgeable—Read about vegetarianism. You will be able to pick up information, which can help you survive the first stage of your transition. It will be a good idea to research on vegan restaurants and alternative cuisine with meat substitutes like gluten and tofu.

3. Set aside money for meals—This should not be a problem if you are already working. But if you are still dependent on meals prepared by your mother, you might find your hands tied behind your back. You should not expect the people around you to change just to make things easier for you. It is wise to get suitable supplies for those occasions when your mom doesn't cook.

4. Be involved in preparing meals—Number three should not be a problem if you have a say in the menu. It will also help you become familiar with vegetarian recipes. Believe me, vegetarianism is not so difficult if you know how to go about it. Not everything is bland or tastes like sawdust. There are many tasty vegetarian dishes out there.

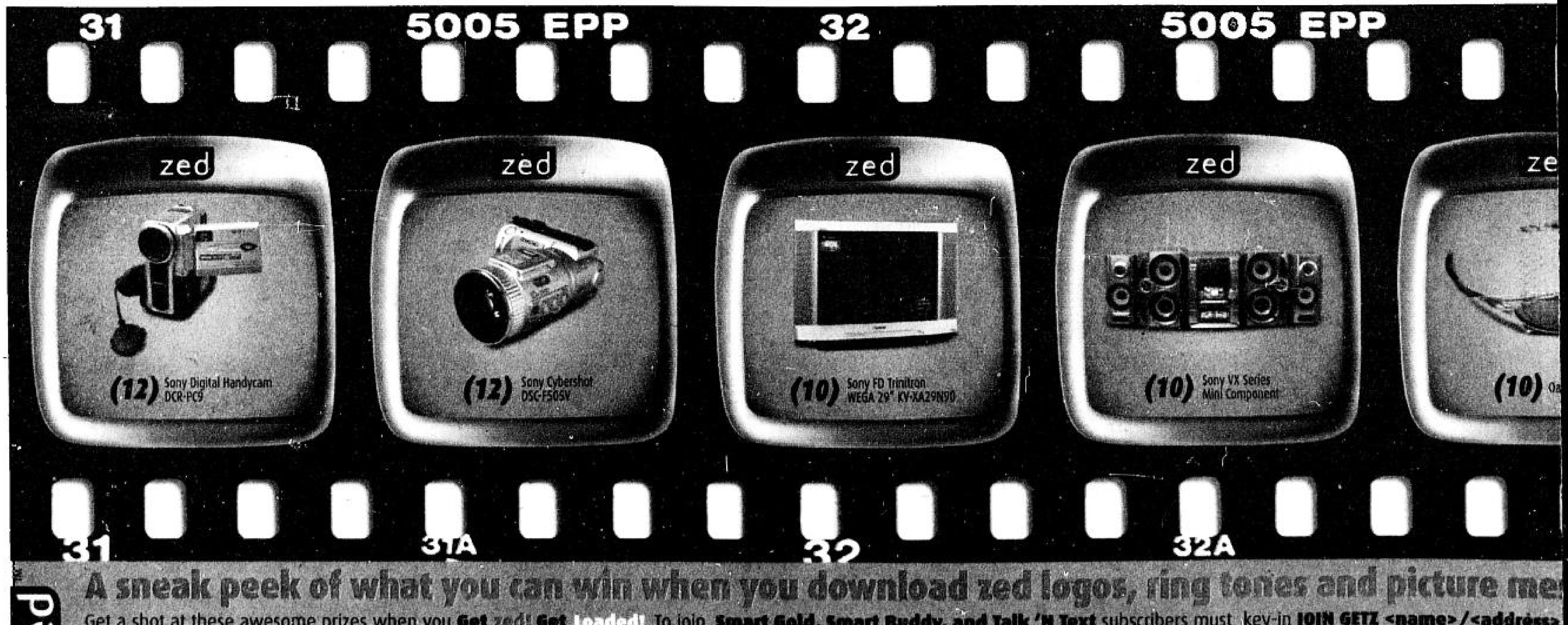
5. Love animals—Every time you are about to bite into a juicy piece of meat, bear in mind that it used to be alive. Imagine if your own beloved pet suffers the same fate.

Not all people are carnivores. One of the things I remember from Sunday school was the explanation why many, before the deluge, lived to be 900 or older. The reason was simply that they did not eat meat.

People only started eating meat after the floods ruined the land. Even if you do not want to reach 100 or do not believe this story, it is still a wise idea to be healthy. And it is nice to treat other living creatures with respect.

One last unsolicited piece of advice: If you decide to stop eating meat, don't force your views on others. You may feel more enlightened than them, but it does not give you the right to criticize other people's eating habits. Just quietly set an example and pray it will inspire them to do the same.

E-mail the author at ivpapa@hotmail.com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Divine radio DJ of the ungodly hours

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

"BRING a book or something. You'll probably end up sleeping on the couch there," RX 93.1's station manager Divine Pascual said when she heard that I intended to sit through the entire graveyard shift. So I did. I brought two books, my journal and quite a lot of food. Might as well be ready for emergency hunger pangs. After all, four hours is four hours.

1:55 a.m. found us in a small booth at the RX office in Strata 2000 Ortigas. Eighteen-year-old Rico Robles was picking out his first song while waiting for his show to start. Clad in a gray shirt, khakis and sneakers, he looks like your typical happy-go-lucky teenager. But typical is not a word to describe this guy. He holds an important job, one that's dreamt of by many. And that night, it was his mission to keep his listeners awake.

Rico, who is Rico Pascual in real life ("I chose Robles as a tribute to my paternal grandmother. She is one of the best grandmas a kid can ever have."), was born in the Philippines, left for the US when he was 8 and came back when he was 16. He was not able to escape the eye of local talent managers and had guest appearances in ABS-CBN and GMA shows. He plans on going back to the US someday.

Rico sat on the DJ's chair, headset on, and began his show. Barely a minute into the program, the phone started ringing off the hook. Although Rico has only been with RX for two months, it is apparent that his audience has already grown to love him.

And Rico, too, has fallen—for his listeners and his job.

"It's the bomb!" he said with his signature grin. "Great staff, great people. It just doesn't feel like a working environment. I'm not a 9 to 5 person."

The opportunity was unexpected. Rico just went over to RX to visit his friend who was a newscaster there. "I saw Jude Rocha and I said, 'Hey, what are you doing?' He said, 'Pushing some buttons.' I said, 'Hey, I wanna do that!' I left him my card." Shortly after, Jude called him over, gave him a pile of CDs and asked him to talk. "So I did. I was just there, blabbering. I didn't know the mic was on. I wasn't aware that I was being auditioned, that's why the nervousness was cut out. I was being myself."

Rico being Rico was enough because they gave him the job. "I'm still giggling about it. Usually, when you're just beginning, a sucky station would ask you. But hey, this is RX 93.1."

This third year nursing student at the Manila Central University was soon plunged into broadcasting. "In the beginning, I knew nothing. Every adlib was totally off the hook. But everything fell into place. Jude Rocha and Louie D., who I believe are two of the best jocks in the industry, totally helped me. They took the time from their busy schedules to teach me the fundamentals. I'm thankful for that every day."

Now, he is also involved in production, sometimes spending hours and hours in the office to work on his shows.

Interaction

He hosts three shows. On Saturdays, from 4-8 p.m., "Dateless and Desperate." "We search for people all around Metro Manila and all over the Internet and we hook them up." This show was Rico's brainchild. On weekdays from 8-11 p.m., he hosts "Backseat," which Rico refers to as "the people's show." This show has segments like "Brain Drain" where people can gripe about what went wrong with their day. He also hosts "The Anything Goes Show" regularly, which is aired from 2-6 a.m. This show features Pop Quizzes, Holler and The Hot Box, the show's cell phone where listeners can text their answers to the day's given topic.

When asked about his ideal time for going on air, Rico believes that late night is best for him. "That way I can interact with people who are like me."

It was last Sunday when 2bU! crashed "The Anything Goes Show."

Rico admits that the graveyard shift may be a bit lonely sometimes. "Your friends are going out but you're here playing music. It's like you're missing out on life. But it's okay, as long as you're doing something for other people. There are callers who just wanna talk and they talk about depression. I play songs that will put them up."

Doesn't he ever get sleepy? "I fell asleep once! I had exams then and we had an event. I was playing a slow song, The Backstreet Boys, I think, and the next thing I knew, I heard the phone ringing. People were calling to ask why there was dead air for 15 minutes! But they say that if you don't fall asleep at graveyard, you're not human. Everyone has done that at least once."

Rico requires only cold water to be able to stay awake. "No coffee and no drugs. Some people think that DJs take drugs to stay awake. That's not true."

Although his parents think staying up all night is unhealthy, they are proud that he's in radio.

Rico believes that the chance to interact with his audience is the best thing about his job.

"Like when someone who doesn't know you says, 'I was studying while listening to your program and I got a high score!' It's really positive. This is something words can't explain."

Rico likes having fun with his listeners. "Sometimes, I just pop the callers in. Most DJs like screening them. Sometimes I don't. It's risky, I know. But it makes it more interactive. Like when you're bungee jumping, why test the rope when you can just jump. That's where the fun begins. Anything goes! You can talk about anything."

One time, he was surprised that he had his sister on air. "She listens when I'm on graveyard. She calls from the States. I was caught off-guard!"

Throughout the whole show, calls and texts keep coming in. It is evident that a lot of girls are coming on to him. "Rico, ur hot," one girl texted. Another was asking for his text number. One girl said in a breathy voice off air, "Can you be my friend?," ironically, right after she greeted her boyfriend on air.

"I let them make *kulit*. I'm more *kulit* than anyone in this world. They can't win. You should see me when I've got eight hours of sleep. I'm a chatterbox."

He is not exaggerating. He even shares his story of the one time he talked nonstop on a road trip from Subic to Manila.

But Rico is not just your constantly upbeat guy. If anything, his favorites show that he's a softie. This guy likes watching romantic movies ("They make me cry."), loves Kenny Rankin's "What Matters Most" and Sisqo's "Incomplete" and has a passion for poetry.

And like every other person in the entire universe, he is looking forward to meeting "the one." And for him, that is "someone who is true to herself, who doesn't pretend, someone who knows herself a lot, someone I can grow with."

"People mistake me for a player or *mayabang* or obnoxious. I'm not a player. I have a mother and a sister. I can't do that."

Night person

A self-confessed night person, Rico sleeps late even if he doesn't have a show. This doesn't mean he goes to parties constantly, though. He's not a party animal. "I rarely go out at night, just to RX events. Work is already like partying. Besides, I get shy when there are a lot of people around. I just wanna put on my jacket and stay in one corner."

So what does he do when he stays up late? "I study. I read my nursing book a lot even if I'm not required. I play the PlayStation. I like sports games. I'm not into RPG. Games are supposed to be fun. I watch TV—'Sex &the City,' 'Friends' and 'Discovery Health'."

It may seem impossible for an 18-year-old to balance school and work, but it seems to be a breeze for him. He even has time to regularly go to the gym. "It could be difficult if you don't discipline yourself. It's all about balance, time management."

As if this is not enough, aside from also going back to show business, Rico also wants to start recording the rap songs he has written, become a chef ("I think I was 12. Mom left me at home. I was watching TV and I saw 'Wok with Yan.' I was inspired.") and go to the US to be a nurse. At the rate things are going, it will not be surprising if he achieves all these and more.

His advice for other DJs? "Learn different kinds of music not just the kind you like—learn your friend's, your father's, your grandfather's... Be spontaneous."

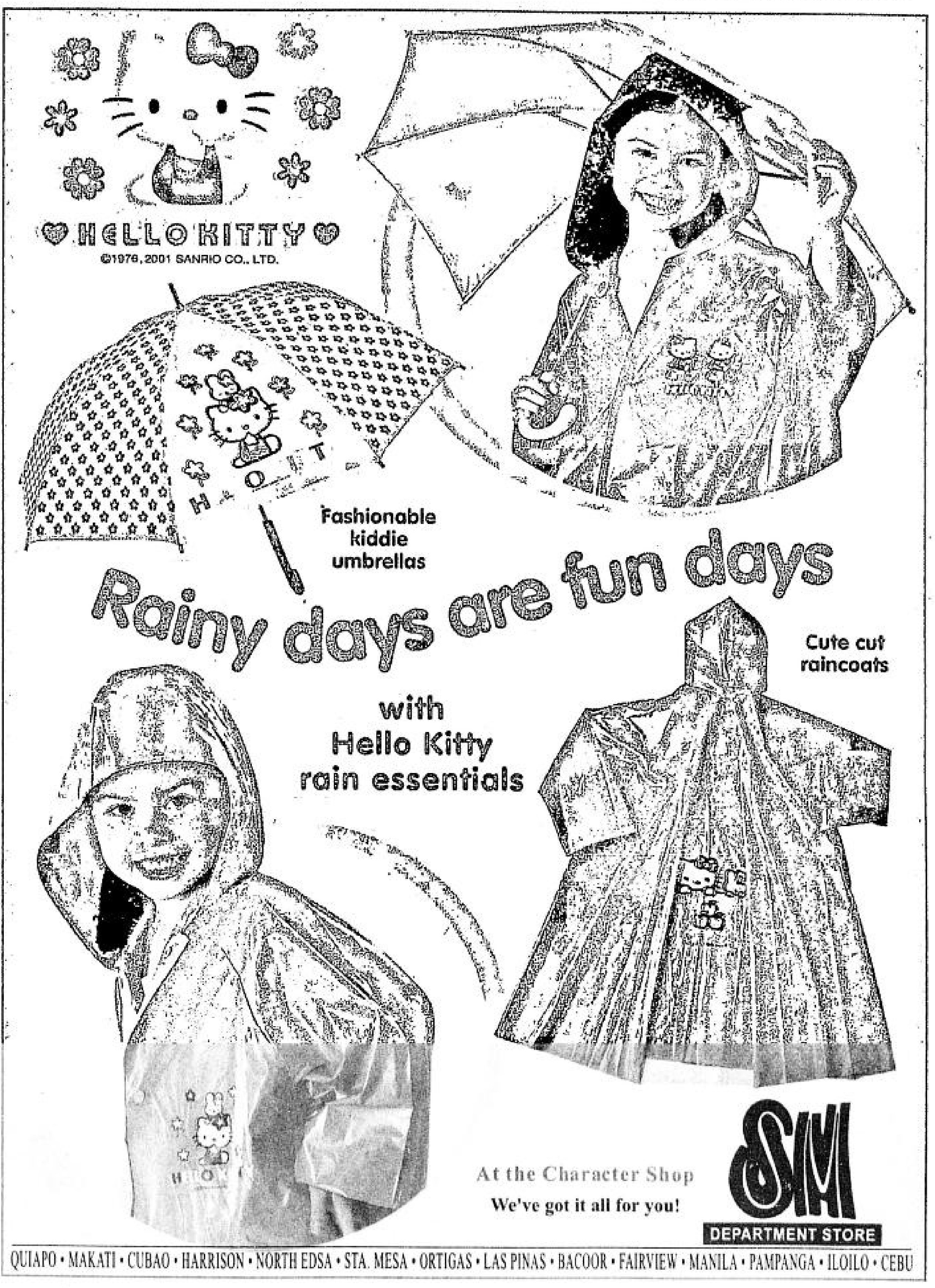
And 'til when does he intend on working in RX? "Until they get tired of me—'til I'm 108."

The graveyard shift was a blast. I didn't even notice the four hours fly by. And Divine, there was definitely no need for that book.

2bU! braved the graveyard shift to find out what it's like to be a vampire on air

You can catch Rico at RX's Hooked on S&S Launch Party on Aug. 24 at Hard Rock which he will be hosting and the RX anniversary at Hard Rock on Aug. 27.

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com



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The lone ranger

BY NIÑO MARK M. SABLAN
2bU! Correspondent

GIVING his solitary state a break, 21-year-old Pao joined me for *merienda* one gloomy afternoon. A third year HRM student at the University of Perpetual Help in Rizal, he's a self-proclaimed loner who treasures his solitude a lot. He designs pendants, creates bags (a wooden casket backpack is in the works) and immerses himself in the arts.

I myself am a part-time loner slash geek freak. But with mutants like Pao, it's difficult to forever swear allegiance to solitude.

Was your solitude caused by something traumatic or was it simply a choice?

It was definitely a choice. I'd rather be alone and be myself rather than be someone else just to be accepted.

What do you do when the nights are long and cold?

I read, mostly non-fiction, but I also like Edgar Allan Poe and Poppy Z. Brite. I also dig the classics and all those vampire novels by Anne Rice.

Any benefits brought about by your solitude?

I've learned how to be independent, how to decide on my own and be firm with the decisions I make.

Is it difficult for you to participate in school activities that require you to be part of a group?

Yes. It's hard spending each day with people you really don't know especially when they have misconceptions about you. In school, whenever we have to form groups I always suggest that 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3 way of forming groups instead of choosing your co-members. I find it humiliating asking every group if they're still in need of an extra member. Also last week, we had a field trip and while every group bonded together in a table during lunch break, I was naturally by my lonesome. They were pretty nice to invite me to join them, but I just didn't feel like spending time with them. Don't get me wrong. I don't hate my classmates. I just prefer being alone.

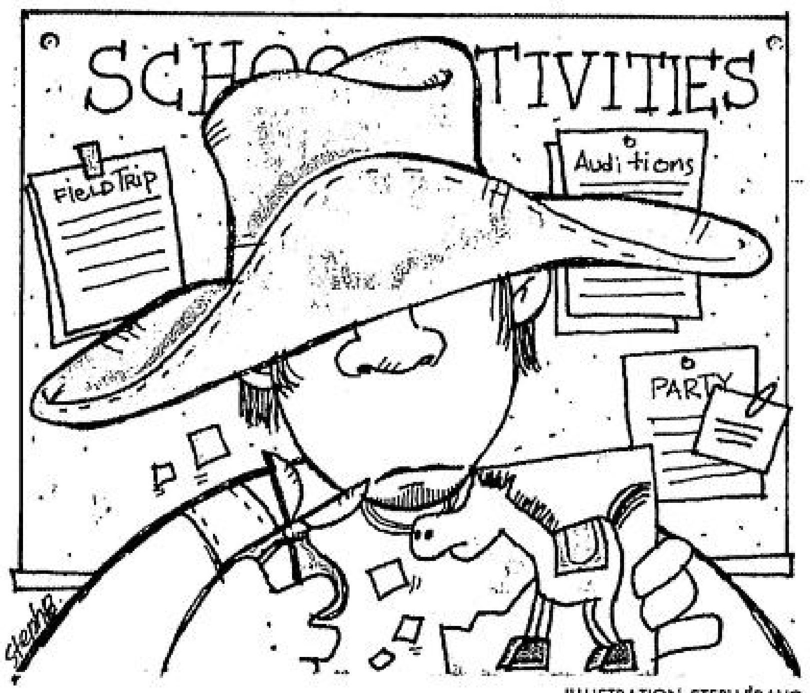

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Do you think your solitude will one day end? Do you think you'll end up alone?

Sometimes it saddens me when I entertain thoughts of growing old alone. I'm not really bent on spending the rest of my life alone. Of course, I want to have someone. It's just that I'm quite choosy.

What is a typical day for you?

School. Mall. House. I basically lock myself in my room and enjoy the company of my favorite authors and musicians.

How do you spend your Saturday nights?

If I don't have stuff to do with my friends—yes, I do have friends—I just watch TV. I'm a fan of "Daria." I can fully relate to that Jane girl.

Would you ever prescribe solitude to anyone?

It's healthy if you have a regular dose of it. I believe in freedom of choice. You just do your thing while I do mine. I especially prescribe it to dependent people who can't survive without their friends or classmates.

What's the most exciting thing you've experienced alone, which you believe wouldn't have happened if you were with someone else?

I treasure each and every experience that comes my way. Hopefully, some pretty mutant will approach me one of these days. It's more of a possibility as opposed to when you're with someone else, right?

Getting real

BY MICHELLE PINO
2bU! Correspondent

YOUNG people are constantly searching for happiness yet often end up frustrated. So here are nuggets of wisdom from Eastern thinkers like Confucius, Lao-Tzu and Buddha to guide young minds on their quest for individual attainment and eternal love.

1. I am who? Try telling yourself over and over again "I am just it. I am just it" until you get the feeling that you are natural, simple, plain but never unimportant. Lao-Tzu in his Taoist teachings emphasizes simple-mindedness. It's not about being the biggest dumb ever but it's all about getting to know yourself without the particulars of your status, name or position. Get to know yourself better by keeping a reflective attitude in life.

2. I am for who? According to Confucius, an individual is not for himself or herself alone. An individual lives in a relationship with others. You can recognize your individuality by recognizing what others are for you and what you are for them. Give and take in your society, not to seek human perfection but for you to be a being called human.

3. Do I see the light? Buddhism has thought its followers that all things in our world, even the whole universe, are ultimately empty. It is not for us to think of our lives, all that we do and all that we have as insignificant. They will all serve as our means, our means of acquiring enlightenment. Each and everyone of us believes that there's something beyond what we are, no matter how diverse these beliefs are. What's important is that we seek such enlightenment.

4. Where do I belong? Some people get stuck into wrong jobs or wrong marriages; as for young adults, in wrong courses or wrong set of friends because they do not know where they belong. Lao-Tzu teaches us that everything has its own place and function. Not every job is for all jobless graduates, nor does any skill apply to all kinds of work. It is a matter of consequence to know your capabilities and limitations. Recognize what's in you, and you won't have problems fitting in, working and relating accordingly.

5. Am I good? Believe it. Humans are basically and innately good, according to Confucius. It's just somewhere there inside of us. It is for us to cultivate personal virtues like love and honesty. Believe in it and seek that goodness in you.

6. What do I desire? Ever wonder why life seems filled with suffering and hardships? The teachings of Buddhism explain that it's because of our endless human desire for worldly matters. Our only escape from these sufferings and anguish is to desire the indescribable state of no desire known as Nirvana. Nirvana or no Nirvana, it's worth a thought for us to try re-channeling our desires and wants. Why not desire something that would go beyond our physical world?

7. Am I too busy? Technologies of machines today, if not all about speed, are all about consuming time. But ironically, more and more pre-occupied, running, always-in-a-hurry people occupy our cities even the countryside. Lao-Tzu, in contrast, teaches us to "Go, relax after the toil." Unlike monetary matters, time seems something impossible to save. So, instead of getting mixed up by saving time, why not spend time wisely? Enjoy life; you deserve it.

8. Am I to think what's right? Confucius seeks every individual to prioritize moral thinking than of thinking about profits and gains. We should let our cultivated sense of values guide us to think of what is good for us, as well as for others. Try giving up something that is incompatible with your set of values. It's worth the try to do what you think is morally good.

9. I know what? Taoist teachings ask us how we know what we know. It's good for us to learn from books and inside the four walls of educational institutions. It's fair enough to say that once in a while we need to go outside and let experience teach us more valuable things we need to know. Go out to nature, meet new people or visit places.

10. Nature in me? What made ancient Oriental thinking valuable to the Chinese is its orientation, connection and understanding of nature. But it's not for them alone to enrich themselves of such knowledge. In fact, original thoughts are universal ideas. We can make use of them for our own purpose and guidance. Humans are part of nature. And we have nature as a part of ourselves.

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